

Wrestling Observer Newsletter

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JANUARY 27, 1992

Joel Goodhart, the controversial Philadelphia wrestling promoter whose Tri-State Wrestling Association had gained a cult following, announced Saturday on his radio show that because he's out of money, he's done in the wrestling business. Besides the TWA, which promoted quarterly bloodbaths in Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Hall that were probably the most talked about and well attended independent shows in the country (with two shows drawing better than \$30,000 houses) along with independents in the Delaware Valley area that weren't nearly as well attended, that also means the end of Goodhart's radio show on WIP in Philadelphia, his Squared Circle Fan Club which had luncheons with many of the top-name wrestlers, and his RingMasters Wrestling School in Philadelphia. Goodhart had talked of late of expanding his TWA, with his first television tapings being scheduled for later this month and not too long ago he was talking about promoting 125 shows in 1992, including five shows per month in the state of Florida.

Goodhart's bankruptcy announcement came just one week before a scheduled big show in Philadelphia, which insiders had known was falling apart. In recent weeks, Goodhart's deal with Joe Daigo, which had him get one New Japan match on each of his big shows, fell apart because Daigo was tired of Goodhart not returning his calls. In addition, the Buddy Rogers vs. Buddy Landel match had fallen apart even before Goodhart's announcement. Rogers had decided to pull out of the show because Goodhart never returned phone calls and was going to make the announcement publicly over the weekend. The other headline match, Dan Kroffat & Doug Furnas vs. Steve Williams & Terry Gordy was also exceedingly doubtful because, you got it, none of the four had any phone calls returned.

Goodhart's shows were the favorite of some hardcores with FMW-like bloodbaths up-and-down the show and brawling all over the building, the most memorable probably being the series of matches between Eddie Gilbert and Cactus Jack in 1991. The Gilbert-Jack series finished third in the Wrestling Observer Feud of the Year balloting (see page two), a somewhat incredible accomplishment for a group without television. However, unlike Memphis, which occasionally promoted matches of that type, and FMW in Japan, which does on a nightly basis but limits the craziness to the main event or the top two matches on the show as to not burn the audience out early, Goodhart would have matches like that from the bottom to the top of major shows that generally exceeded three hours in duration. The common complaint was that he burned the audience out with the blood and brawling in the stands and by the time the main event came on, the audience had nothing left and the main eventers had nothing left to show the crowd that they hadn't seen. While those shows made some feel they were the best shows in North America, others felt they couldn't sustain themselves working in that matter over the long run with the overuse of blood and would eventually spell the group's demise. While this probably had little to do with the success or failure of the promotion, Goodhart's bombastic radio (and in-person) personality also rubbed a lot of people the wrong way.

HISTORY OF ECW

In truth, Goodhart's fatal mistake was simply he put together an operation that needed consistent money to sustain itself and wasn't able to generate that kind of money. Even on his biggest houses, there is question whether or not the shows were even profitable since he paid so many big guarantees to load up the shows and had large expenses for flying so many wrestlers in. The independent promoters who have been able to survive these times, where it's difficult to draw to the live shows because of so much free television wrestling and WWF (and to a lesser extent WCW), with the notoriety of having "all" the big names, making everything else seem bush league in comparison, generally have brought in one, or maybe two matches with recognizable "name" talent to draw some fans and filled out the shows with local wrestlers who work cheap and have no transportation expenses associated with them. In that way, the top match, or top two matches, will hopefully bring some fans in, while expenses are kept down. In flying in an entire crew and paying big money for several matches deep on the show, you are still only going to draw basically the same crowd that is willing to attend "non-major league" wrestling, but your expenses have gone through the roof. There were many who questioned all along whether or not there were enough hardcore blood'n'guts freaks to support a promotion with that philosophy over the long haul because a promotion like that turns off a great percentage of potential fans. But to his defense, a group that a casual fan sees as bush league needs to find a niche, rather than just deliver straight live wrestling which in and of itself is going through tough economic times because of so much free on television. I don't believe Goodhart's demise would be fair to blame on the failure of that style of wrestling (although that style by its very excesses is going to only have a limited audience), as much as an inability for non-WWF wrestling in this country to draw big enough money live to support flying in star-studded line-ups.

In addition to his expenses of running live shows, Goodhart also had to pay for his weekly slot on WIP radio (\$800 per week). Just a few weeks back, the show didn't air with rumors going around that he was running low on money, although Goodhart was back on a week later and claimed the show was off because he had the flu.

Goodhart has left behind a lot of customers who had already purchased 1992 season tickets for his quarterly big shows and there was reportedly a sizeable advance for this coming weekend's shows. Since Goodhart himself handled the tickets, and hasn't returned any calls and rumor has it he'll be disconnecting his phone early this week, there is no word on what a procedure would be for refunds, or if he declares bankruptcy, whether you'll be even able to get refunds.

FEBRUARY 10, 1992

Todd Gordon, who worked as a financial partner with Joel Goodhart is going to start up a group called Eastern Championship Wrestling and use a lot of Goodhart's local wrestlers like J.T. Smith, D.C. Drake, Larry Winters, etc.

MARCH 9, 1992

2/25 in Philadelphia at the Original Sports Bar saw J.T. Smith & D.C. Drake DDQ Larry Winters & Johnny Hot Body. Ivan Koloff did a job for Tony Stetson. Promoter Todd Gordon announced Kevin Sullivan, Eddie Gilbert, One Man Gang and Neidhart as coming in for future cards.

APRIL 6, 1992

Eastern Championship Wrestling on 3/24 at the Sports Bar in Philadelphia included J.T. Smith & D.C. Drake beating Larry Winters & Johnny Hot Body in what was said to have been a super match with Drake turning heel on Smith and they left Smith, three refs, the ring announcer, a female ring attendant and a fan laying in the ring when the carnage was over, Glen Osborne threw fire to beat Jimmy Janetty and Ivan Koloff beat Tony Stetson in a chain match. Jimmy Snuka appears on 4/25 and 4/26 for this group.

APRIL 27, 1992

Tod Gordon (Philadelphia indie promoter) and Bob Smith of Pro Wrestling Illustrated start a 30 minute weekly television wrestling talk show on WOCB, Ch. 7 in Philadelphia at 9 a.m. every Saturday starting 5/2.

MAY 4, 1992

Tod Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling on 4/25 in Tabor, PA before 425 fans as Wildman Bellomo (Salvatore Bellomo) won a Battle Royal, Jimmy Snuka won another Battle Royal, Mr. Sandman pinned Tony Stetson due to outside interference of Vivacious Vernoica, Pit Bulls beat Johnny Hot Body & Jeff Royal when Hot Body walked out on his partner. The finale was a match of the two Battle Royal winners to determine the first ECW champion which was won by Snuka.

4/26 at Center City Sports Bar in Philadelphia drew 320 as Hot Body won the title from Snuka due to interference of Larry Winters, Wildman Bellomo beat Jimmy Janetty, Stetson pinned Sandman in a bloodfest and main event saw H.D. Rider & The Super Destroyers DDQ Pit Bulls & J.T. Smith. Next show is 5/19 with Smith vs. D.C. Drake, Pit Bulls vs. Super Destroyers, Hot Body vs. Sandman and Jim Neidhart vs. Bellomo.

Joel Goodhart sent a form letter out to all his former wrestling customers advertising his new insurance and investments business.

MAY 18, 1992

The Philadelphia Daily News ran a column about Joel Goodhart last week. It was a very good story and seemed very factual with Goodhart explaining his problem, which is what everyone said all along, was that he was trying to put on cards that he wanted to see and thus overbooked talent and kept deficit spending. He claimed to have lost \$130,000 in the two plus years he was promoting wrestling, \$95,000 of which was his own money.

JUNE 1, 1992

Tatsumi Fujinami appeared 5/25 in Philadelphia at the Sports Bar before about 200 fans for an afternoon show. Fujinami was sitting in the bar in street clothes and was challenged by "The Bouncer" (Chris Duffy) and he jumped into the ring and beat him in 1:22 with the dragon sleeper. Also Sandman double count out J.T. Smith, Max Thrasher & Glen Osborne won a tag match, Tony Stetson beat Metal Maniac via DQ, Johnny Hot Body kept the ECW title beating Jimmy Janetty and Larry Winters beat King Kaluha but after the match Sandman and Hot Body attacked Winters who did a stretcher job.

ECW ran a show in the same location on 5/19 as Winters beat Thrasher, Stetson beat Metal Maniac via DQ, Hot Body beat Sandman when Peaches, Sandman's former manager, tripped him. Peaches blamed Vivacious Veronica for what happened and Sandman believed her and suplexed Vernoica, knocking her out and Winters came to Veronica's aid and Hot Body bloodied Winters with his title belt. Smith DCOR Janetty in a face vs. face match, Sal Bellomo beat Jim Neidhart via count out when Neidhart was chasing manager Stevie Wonderful. 6/23 will have Hot Body & Sandman & Don E. Allen & Peaches vs. Winters & Stetson & Veronica, Bellomo vs. Neidhart with Wonderful handcuffed by Crybaby Waldo and a tag team tournament to crown ECW tag champs.

JULY 6, 1992

Tod Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling on 6/23 at the Philadelphia Original Sports Bar saw Super Destroyers beat Jimmy Janetty & J.T. Smith, Night Breed (Max Thrasher & Glen Osborne) over The Flames (Mr. Anthony & Rick Perez) and Destroyers beat Night Breed to win the tag team tournament, Johnny Hot Body & Mr. Sandman & Peaches & Don E. Allen beat Larry Winters & Tony Stetson & Vivacious Veronica when Hot Body pinned Veronica after she was thrown into sandman's surfboard, Don Muraco DDQ King Kaluha and Jim Neidhart pinned Salvatore Bellomo. This gave Neidhart five minutes with manager Stevie Wonderful and Wonderful ran away but Muraco (as a face) threw him back in, however Muraco then turned on Neidhart.

JULY 13, 1992

ECW at Philadelphia Sports Bar on 7/14 and 7/15 with Jimmy Snuka on both shows.

JULY 27, 1992

Eastern Championship Wrestling drew 275 paid on 7/14 at the Philadelphia Sports Bar as Mr. Perez beat Jimmy Janetty, Scott Summers & King Kahlua beat J.T. Smith & Hurricane Curry, Sandman beat Larry Winters, Samoan Warrior beat Jack Hammer via DQ, Super Destroyers kept their tag titles beating Max Thrasher & Glen Osborne, Vladimir Markoff & Super Ninja beat Chris Michaels & Nikolai Volkoff, Tommy Cairo pinned Damien Stone, Sal Bellomo DDQ Tony Stetson and Jimmy Snuka pinned Johnny Hot Body to regain the ECW title. Dick Graham and Stately Wayne Manor from Wrestling World Magazine did the announcing. Next show at the Sports Bar is 8/11 with Bellomo vs. Stetson in a lumberjack match, Winters vs. Hot Body for the TV title, Snuka vs. Super Destroyer #1 for the ECW title and more. 7/15 at Chestnut

Cabaret in Philadelphia saw Snuka beat Sandman, Winters DDQ Hot Body and promoter Tod Gordon was KO'd trying to separate them, Bellomo pinned Stetson and Volkoff beat Markov among others.

AUGUST 10, 1992

The Philadelphia Sports Bar where Tod Gordon's ECW ran regular shows closed down this past week.

SEPTEMBER 8, 1992

ECW at Aztec Club in Philadelphia on 9/12 with Jimmy Snuka vs. Super Destroyer #1 and 9/30 at Chestnut Cabaret in Philadelphia with a TV title tournament plus Snuka vs. Don Muraco.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1992

Fans who purchased advanced tickets to Joel Goodhart's wrestling shows before Goodhart went out of business only received 30 cents on the dollar in reimbursement. This was because there was \$30,000 in ticket stubs returned to the commission and just a \$10,000 bond required by the Pennsylvania state commission. Promoters like Goodhart and Herb Abrams seem to make a strong argument that some performance bond and regulation is needed.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1992

Tod Gordon's ECW is running a card 10/24 afternoon (day before Havoc) at the Cabaret in Philadelphia with Don Muraco on top. Upcoming shows are 9/30 at the Cabaret with Muraco vs. Jimmy Snuka plus Terry Taylor on the card, 10/2 in Kensington Youth Center in Philadelphia with Snuka vs. Ivan Koloff, Muraco vs. Nikolai Volkoff plus Taylor; 10/3 at Tabor Youth Center in Philadelphia with Muraco vs. Snuka, Volkoff, Taylor and more.

OCTOBER 12, 1992

Don Muraco won the ECW title from Jimmy Snuka on 9/30 in Philadelphia. The group ran a special stipulation match on 10/2 with Tony Stetson vs. Terry Taylor. If Stetson lost, he had to retire. If Taylor lost, manager Stevie Wonderful had to retire. If Stetson's manager, Johnny Hot Body, turned on Stetson, then Hot Body had to retire. Finish saw Wonderful argue with Taylor and shove him and Taylor just laid in the ring and let Stetson pin him. Taylor did another job for Stetson on 10/3.

ECW promoter Tod Gordon is running a 10/24 card at the Chestnut Cabaret in Philadelphia in conjunction with WCW's Halloween Havoc. Show has Muraco vs. Snuka in a lights out match on top, plus Sandman & Peaches vs. J.T. Smith & Tigr in a mixed match and Ivan Koloff vs. Tommy Cairo in a chain match. Anyone attending the WCW autograph and photo party that night and the Bourse Building (5th and market) gets \$2 off on their ECW tickets.

NOVEMBER 2, 1992

Tod Gordon's ECW at the Chestnut Cabaret in Philadelphia on 10/24 was headlined by Don Muraco pinning Jimmy Snuka.

After the match Snuka turned heel on Gordon, giving him two backbreakers, a kneedrop, then attacking a ref, the ring announcer, the time keeper and beating up on half of the babyfaces. Next show is 11/17 with Muraco vs. The Sandman, Tommy Cairo vs. Sal Bellomo, Snuka vs. Tony Stetson.

NOVEMBER 30, 1992

The Sandman won the ECW title from Don Muraco on 11/16 in Philadelphia.

DECEMBER 21, 1992

ECW on 12/19 in Morrisville, PA has Davey Boy Smith vs. Jimmy Snuka on top.

DECEMBER 28, 1992

Davey Boy Smith worked the ECW show on 12/19 in Morrisville, PA beating Jimmy Snuka. Smith was managed by Tod Gordon, the ECW promoter.

MAY 24, 1993

Even though there were only about 300 fans at the shows each night, there has been a ton of talk stemming from the Eastern Championship Wrestling television tapings on 5/14 and 5/15 in South Philadelphia. Among the names who worked the shows were Road Warrior Hawk, Terry Funk, Paul E. Dangerously, Don Muraco and Jimmy Snuka for booker Eddie Gilbert. However, the most talked about incident took place the first night, and it wasn't Eddie Gilbert throwing fire in the face of Hawk, although that happened also. It was during a match with J.T. Smith and Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) which wound up in a brawl and they were fighting on a television interview platform. Patriot knocked Smith off the platform and Smith landed on the floor some 14 to 18 feet below, which is an awful lot of punishment on one's knees trying to land. I guess the original plan was for Smith to take the bump while hanging down, which would take seven feet away from it. One report we got was that Smith injured his knees badly on the bump, although he worked the next night. Patriot then flew off the platform with a double sledge onto Smith. Both were limping at television the next night. The taping was loaded with outside interference and wild Memphis type brawls at the end of almost every hour, including the finale on the second night with Funk vs. Snuka where every wrestler on the card ended up brawling all over the Sportatorium-like building.

Super Destroyers won the ECW tag team titles from Johnny Hot Body & Chris Michaels on the 5/15 taping in South Philadelphia, but the belts changed back later in the same taping. Kevin Lawler, Jerry's 20-year-old son, is working as referee Kevin Christian for ECW and has moved to Philadelphia with Eddie and Doug Gilbert to handle office work.

MAY 31, 1993

ECW is running its biggest show to date on 6/19 at the ECW Arena in South Philadelphia which will be a television taping with Terry Funk vs. Eddie Gilbert in a chain match with the winner to be crowned King of Philadelphia. I don't know what

they're going to do about an outcome but since Gilbert's hero is Jerry Lawler, you know he's going to be wearing a crown. Also two street fights where the object is to tear the opponents clothes off with Sandman vs. Rockin Rebel and Peaches vs. Terrible Tigras, Don Muraco managed by Paul E. Dangerously vs. mystery opponent, Jimmy Snuka with TV title defenses against both J.T. Smith and Tommy Cairo and more. ECW is hoping to run a regular schedule of house shows in the Philadelphia area starting in June.

JUNE 7, 1993

Dick Murdoch has agreed to work the ECW show on 6/19 in Philadelphia against Dark Patriot. After the 6/19 show, the next major show in Philadelphia for ECW will be 9/11 and there is work going on to use SMW talent on the card as well. A correction from two weeks back regarding the big bump off the interview stand that J.T. Smith took. The bump was planned exactly as it went off. We had printed that a safer bump had been planned but circumstances at that particular moment led to a 14-18 foot drop. They are also working on bringing Kensuke Sasaki in to use the Hell Raisers as a tag team in Philadelphia.

JUNE 28, 1993

Tod Gordon's "Summer Sizzler" show took place on 6/19 in Philadelphia before about 650 fans headlined by a chain match with Eddie Gilbert vs. Terry Funk. The match was a notch below their two previous near five-star efforts, but was still generally talked about in the ***1/2 to **** range. Gilbert juiced like crazy and lost so much blood that he threw up backstage after the match. Funk also bled. After a ref bump, a second referee, Kevin Christian (Kevin Lawler) came in but when Funk touched all four corners, he claimed not to have seen it. Gilbert then piledrove Funk on a chair and the ref signalled as he touched all four corners. Promoter Gordon then fired Christian as a referee and Paul E. Dangerously KO'd Gordon and Christian then became Eddie Gilbert's Sam Bass and changed his name Gilbert. The match was to determine the King of Philadelphia, so Gilbert will get to play Jerry Lawler on the ECW television shows. Gordon announced after the match that Funk was the real king of Philadelphia. He also announced the next major show would be in September and would be a combined show with Smoky Mountain, W*ING and ASUWF (As Yet Unnamed Wrestling Federation that Paul E. Dangerously is involved with). Of course, nobody from Smoky Mountain has received as much as one phone call concerning that to this point. Actually the most talked about occurrence on the show was in a women's street fight where the object was to tear the clothes off the opponent with La Tigras vs. Peaches. While neither of them had their clothes all ripped off, another woman interfered (Angel Amoroso) and as she was in the ring, Tony Stetson and Rockin Rebel ripped her top off and she paraded around the ring for 15 to 20 seconds bare breasted without even attempting to cover up which got the biggest pop of the show, but also caused a number of women and parents to complain since the audience was about 20 percent children. Gilbert's idea was apparently to show this was the ultimate hardcore promotion. Tammy Fyfch from SMW worked the show as well and sprayed hair spray in Sandman's eyes causing him to lose a street fight to Rockin Rebel. The opener saw the two wrestlers (Don E. Allen and Herve Benestos) simply stop wrestling each other and announce they were forming a tag team. Dangerously also tripped Tommy Cairo up causing him to lose a TV title match to Jimmy Snuka. ECW is

talking about trying to put together a real circuit with house shows in the Philadelphia area four nights per week.

JULY 5, 1993

The ECW show on 6/19 in Philadelphia headlined by Eddie Gilbert vs. Terry Funk drew a \$10,500 house, which is more than most WCW houses have done of late and rival some of the smaller-town WWF gates as well. Lots of complaints continued last week regarding the leaving of the woman bare breasted in the ring, including promoter Tod Gordon denying knowledge of it beforehand and decrying the incident saying that his wife and kids were watching the show as well.

JULY 12, 1993

ECW announced television tapings on 8/7 and 8/8 in Philadelphia with Hawk, Stan Hansen, Paul E. Dangerously, Jimmy Snuka, Don Muraco and they are negotiating with wrestlers from W*ING to appear. Not sure about Hawk since that's part of the one week in Sumo Hall and I was under the impression Hawk was booked for the entire week, but maybe just the first few days.

JULY 19, 1993

Shane Douglas to headed to ECW at the 8/8 television tapings.

Tod Gordon is handling all independent bookings for Eddie Gilbert and anyone wishing to book Gilbert for dates can call Gordon at 215-923-1443.

JULY 26, 1993

Eddie Gilbert is now 49 percent owner of ECW after a deal was closed with majority owner Tod Gordon this past week. Gilbert is negotiating with Tito Santana and Koko Ware and is hoping to bring in Stan Lane for the 8/7 and 8/8 TV tapings and Big Bossman and Sensational Sherri in the fall. Abdullah the Butcher, Stan Hansen, Shane Douglas and a few wrestlers from W*ING are all already committed. Douglas may be brought in as a heel to team with Gilbert. Stevie Wonderful (heel manager), Rockin Rebel (Chuck Jones aka Chuck Williams), Johnny Hot Body and Renesto Benefico are all finito. Although the W*ING wrestlers canceled the SMW bookings, they are going to come in for the TV tapings and again for a 9/18 house show in Philadelphia billed as "Ultraclash '93" with a main event probably being Abdullah & Gilbert vs. Hansen & ? with attempts being made for ? to wind up as Terry Funk.

AUGUST 16, 1993

With no WWF shows being run over the weekend and WCW just in small Georgia towns, the most talked about shows over the weekend were the TV tapings on 8/7 and 8/8 at the ECW Arena. Stan Hansen and Tito Santana debuted as babyfaces, Shane Douglas (as a member of Gilbert's First Family, who could barely work because his shoulder is nowhere close to being healed) and Ivan & Vladimir Koloff debuted as heels, and Victor Quinones brought in The Head Hunters, Masayoshi

Motegi, Mitsuhiro Matsunaga (who worked the first night as Mr. Danger and the second as Matsunaga) and Miguelito Perez. Of the group, The Head Hunters, two identical 380 pound 24-year-old twins named Victor & Manuel Santiago who were born in the Bronx but are citizens of the Dominican Republic, were by far the most impressive doing numerous moves off the top rope including moonsaults. Motegi looked green, but with potential and the crowd cheered him a lot after his face vs. face match with J.T. Smith, while Matsunaga didn't look impressive.

Eddie Gilbert & Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) won the ECW tag team titles from the Super Destroyers, who then split up. On the ECW television show that aired this past weekend, they aired 10 minutes of W*ING highlight footage from 1992 including when Mr. Pogo blew the fire out of his mouth onto Matsunaga's head and some of the barbed wire baseball bat bloodbaths.

The hottest angle of the weekend involved Eddie Gilbert's First Family, which included Paul E. Dangerously. They were all out when Eddie revealed that Freddy Gilbert wasn't really his little brother, but was actually Kevin Lawler, the son of Jerry Lawler. They proceeded to destroy Lawler who juiced heavily. The angle would have been great if it was to build up to Jerry Lawler coming in for revenge, which is how it was played as if that was going to happen. But since it's doubtful that will occur, the angle is hard to figure, although apparently it was a way to "write-out" Lawler's Freddy Gilbert character.

Santana beat Don Muraco on 8/8 to win the ECW title when Freddy Gilbert's interference backfired, and Santana later retained the title beating Vladimir Koloff.

Tod Gordon, who has applied for membership in the NWA which could and probably will turn into a major political fight come the convention on 9/3 in Las Vegas. By the way, a correction to what was previously reported here, the Barry Windham-to-Ric Flair NWA title switch at Beach Blast was approved beforehand by the NWA. After NWA lawyers sent a letter to Ole Anderson saying they needed NWA approval or they couldn't switch the title, WCW went through the channels to get the approval before the Biloxi match.

Gordon also announced the line-up for Ultraclash '93 on 9/18 in Philadelphia as Hansen & Terry Funk vs. Gilbert & Abdullah the Butcher in a no DQ tornado match, Super Destroyer #1 vs. Super Destroyer #2 in a mask vs. mask match, J.T. Smith vs. Dark Patriot in a scaffold match, a Battle Royal with both men and women and Sensational Sherri will be involved, Sal Bellomo vs. Richard Michaels, Shane Douglas vs. Sandman, Tony Stetson vs. Tommy Cairo for the Pennsylvania State title and Head Hunters vs. Miguelito Perez & mystery partner in a barbed wire baseball bat match.

AUGUST 23, 1993

Saw the ECW bit with the valet getting her top ripped off and it was nothing like described here. Don't get me wrong, it didn't seem to make sense and it was something that isn't going to make too many parents want to bring their children to future shows. Valet Angel seemed to get in the ring for no reason, her top was immediately ripped off by two of the male wrestlers, but she did cover up almost immediately.

Then again, it seems Eddie Gilbert's philosophy as booker is to totally cater to hardcore fans and that is the audience he's

drawing because those there tell me that the W*ING wrestlers were all over big at the show and The Head Hunters in particular were the most over act on the card. A ten minute best of W*ING video airing Matsunaga diving off the balcony, Pogo blowing fire onto Matsunaga and clips of the ring surrounded by the bed of nails match aired on the ECW television show before the recent tapings.

AUGUST 30, 1993

ECW is threatening legal action against those who sell its television shows through the mail. At least everyone is forewarned.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1993

Eddie Gilbert continues to run down Jerry Lawler in interviews on the ECW television show. Speaking of ECW, it'll be opening a pro wrestling school on 10/1. Tito Santana will lose the title on a fictitious title change since he's unavailable for future dates. Expect heel Shane Douglas to be announced as champ soon. Complete line-up for the 9/18 Ultraclash I at ECW Arena is Gilbert & Abdullah vs. Terry Funk & Stan Hansen in a Tornado bungalow match, Head Hunters vs. Miguelito Perez & mystery partner in a barbed wire baseball bat match, A mixed gender Battle Royal with women wrestlers, valets and managers, Dark Patriot vs. J.T. Smith in a scaffold match, Tommy Cairo vs. Tony Stetson for Pennsylvania state title, Shane Douglas vs. Sandman, Sal Bellomo vs. Richard Michaels and mask vs. mask with Super Destroyer #1 vs. Super Destroyer #2. Next TV tapings are 10/1 and 10/2 and already booked are Funk, Abdullah and Paul E. Dangerously.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1993

Just one week before the company's biggest show to date, Eastern Championship Wrestling owner Tod Gordon and booker Eddie Gilbert have severed ties. Largely the split-up, described by Gordon as amicable, is because it appears Gordon is likely to become the Northeastern regional promoter if/when Jim Crockett Jr. starts up a promotion after his no-compete clause with WCW expires. Gilbert is expected to return home to Tennessee and get involved in state politics. Gordon has yet to decide whether or not he'll simply promote a Crockett product which may or may not go by the World Wrestling Network (WWN) name, or he'll promote in conjunction, doing a split television show which, for instance, may include him adding 15 minutes of locally produced matches/interviews/angles and continuing the ECW to a national show. The 9/18 show in South Philadelphia billed as "Ultraclash," headlined by a bungalow match with Terry Funk & Stan Hansen vs. Kevin Sullivan (replacing Gilbert) & Abdullah the Butcher and a barbed wire baseball bat match with W*ING wrestlers The Head Hunters vs. Crash the Terminator & Miguelito Perez had a \$4,500 advance as of the weekend, which is the largest in the company's short history, in a building set up for about 1,000 capacity.

SEPTEMBER 27, 1993

The most-talked about independent show in this country in several months was Tod Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling's 9/18 show at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. The figures reported to us were an SRO attendance of 1,131 fans (960 capacity in ECW Arena) and a \$16,147 gate. Many have disputed those numbers claiming 780 as the accurate attendance figure and less than that as paid. Either way it was the largest show in the company's short history and one of the wildest shows in recent memory in the United States. We received several reports, with some calling it the best house show they had ever seen and others saying it was the best show they'd seen in months or even a few years, and others who were more critical saying the show had the same excesses (12 guys juicing) that led to the demise of Joel Goodhart's promotion. Still, the basic agreement was the main event, while scheduled as a barbed wire baseball bat match between The Head Hunters vs. Crash the Terminator & Miguelito Perez stole the show, even though the announced stipulation never took place. It was announced there would be no barbed wire baseball bat match due to the commission stopping the match, but they did have a baseball bat that was used throughout the match, just without any barbed wire wrapped around it. I believe actually nobody brought the barbed wire, although all four wrestlers were willing to do the match. The two teams brawled for 8:38, pounding on each other with the bat and brawling all over the building. The highlight of the match with quadruple juice came when Perez whipped one of the Head Hunters into the wall of the building and dry wall flew everywhere and a big crack broke in the wall. A second whip into the wall saw the Head Hunter go right through the wall into the street. Finish came when Crash (280+) missed a moonsault and one of the Hunters (380-ish) hit a perfect moonsault for the pin. We had ratings varying from ***3/4 to **** on the match. The semifinal was a bunkhouse match with Terry Funk & Stan Hansen vs. Kevin Sullivan & Abdullah the Butcher, which ended with a DQ finish when Eddie Gilbert attacked Funk, even though it was a no DQ match. Everyone but Hansen juiced in this match, which was rated *** to ****, with many crediting it largely to Funk's antics. After the match, Gilbert, who had been dumped as booker two weeks before the show (new booker is Paul Heyman/Dangerously), did a speech that nobody knew he was going to do, turning himself babyface, saying how much he loved Philadelphia and telling fans to continue to support the promotion and saying that it was simply that he and Tod Gordon couldn't come to a new contractual agreement. Earlier in the show Gordon announced that ECW would be a part of the NWA.

The same night in Elizabeth, NJ, Larry Sharpe and Dennis Coraluzzo promoted what was reported to us as the largest independent gate for American-style pro wrestling in this country (several independently promoted Lucha Libre shows in Los Angeles in 1992 drew gates between \$50,000 and \$100,000) in recent memory, with 1,860 fans paying \$38,950 for a show headlined by Big Bossman vs. Dick Murdoch. If that figure is correct, the show would have been the largest gate in the country that night (WCW's house show in Kings Mountain, NC drew \$8,000; WWF's house show in Florence, SC drew about \$32,000). The show was a charity benefit show for Make-a-wish, and due to the 400-member strong Elizabeth police department hawking tickets, included 347 ringside seats sold for \$50 apiece to local businesses as a donation. The only independent \$30,000+ houses I can remember in the past several years would have been a show two years back promoted by Joel Goodhart at around the \$31,000 range.

Besides what was already covered, the ECW show in Philadelphia on 9/18 included Ted Petty & Johnny Rotten debut as heel tag team Public Enemy, Super Destroyer #1 beat Super Destroyer #2 in a mask vs. mask match. After the match #1 bragged he was the only masked guy left in the promotion when Dark Patriot came out and gave him two stuff piledrivers on a chair. Dark Patriot beat J.T. Smith in a scaffold match when Smith took a bump off a 12-15 foot high scaffold. As scaffold matches go, this was said to have been very good. ECW will be running shows at the ECW Arena in South Philadelphia on 10/1 and 10/2 billed as "NWA Bloodfeast '93." They are advertising five events, but not saying which events will take place on which nights. The idea behind it is to get people to buy tickets for both shows, although, boy has that idea gotten a lot of complaints voiced to me from fans. Anyway, the five events are Jimmy Snuka vs. Terry Funk in a cage match for the TV title and if Funk doesn't win, he never gets another title match for any ECW title, Head Hunters vs. Public Enemy in a cage match with a baseball bat on a pole, Sabu vs. Dark Patriot, Kevin Sullivan vs. Abdullah the Butcher (who were teammates on the weekend show) and a Fall Swimwear fashion show (which is a new way of saying bikini contest) with Angel, Woman and La Tigra.

ECW is also opening up a wrestling school on 10/3.

OCTOBER 11, 1993

The weekend television tapings on 10/1 and 10/2 in South Philadelphia drew about 250 and 400 respectively with Sabu coming out of it as the star of both shows and the promotion. Sabu debuted the first night beating Tazmaniac. He chased fans all over the building and was so scary that supposedly some of the children attending had nightmares about him. He did a moonsault off the top rope and landed on chairs in the front row and was chasing fans and throwing chairs all over the building. Then he put a table into the ring and started coming off the top rope with moonsaults on it until the table broke. There are guys who do high-risk moves, and there are guys who do insane moves and are going to be injured very badly before their careers last too long. Cactus Jack was the guy most would associate with the latter category, but Sabu is in another league from even Cactus Jack. For those who like his work, my advice is to enjoy it while you can because he's not going to be able to physically continue doing the things he does for a long period of time. He showed up the second night strapped to a horizontal stretcher with chains and when let loose, did a Hannibal Lecter gimmick. On the second night, Paul E. Dangerously brought out ECW champ Shane Douglas and wound up getting into an argument with Sensational Sherri and Sabu got involved. The idea was to keep Douglas and Sherri a heel combination, but make sure Sabu, who everyone wanted to cheer, would stay heel by making Dangerously his manager. Told everyone cheered Sabu anyway, as he won the title with a moonsault in the middle. They announced an 11/13 show at the ECW Arena and brought out Sabu and Terry Funk and said that each could pick any partner of their choosing for the match. Sabu picked Hawk, but before Funk could pick a partner, he was attacked. The 11/13 date is right in the middle of the WCW tapings in Orlando which Hawk was originally booked for, but apparently he gave the okay that he'd be in Philadelphia for the show.

Funk turned heel during the two days. First, as a face, he won the TV title from Jimmy Snuka in a cage match on 10/1, but started a subtle turn afterwards. On 10/2, he came out with J.T. Smith as a protege. In the first match, Smith & Sandman challenged Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson for the ECW tag titles (Hot Body & Stetson came out as champs 10/1--previous

champs were Eddie Gilbert & Dark Patriot, neither of whom is still with the promotion). Sandman was pinned when Funk hit him with a chair. Later, when Smith challenged Douglas for the ECW title, Funk turned on Smith and cost him the match.

The Head Hunters and Miguelito Perez no-showed the second night. Crash the Terminator from W*ING was there, and scheduled to do a run-in against the Hunters, but when they no-showed, he had no role and never worked. Hunters were scheduled against Public Enemy (Ted Petty & Johnny Rotten) in a cage match, but with the Hunters not there they had a three-team cage match with Public Enemy, Axl & Ian Rotten and Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond, which Public Enemy won. Reports we got were the first night had so much blood, mayhem and chaos early that the crowd was burned out well before the main matches which were Kevin Sullivan vs. Abdullah the Butcher double count out and Funk-Snuka. The Fall Fashion show segment bombed.

Second night was a much better show, including a Sullivan-Abdullah cage match which Sullivan won when Tazmaniac threw in a briefcase which Sullivan used and he managed to get out of the cage first.

Jim Crockett was backstage at both shows although nothing official as to when he'll be promoting his first television tapings or of any syndicated deals.

NOVEMBER 8, 1993

The ECW 11/13 line-up at the ECW Arena in South Philadelphia is scheduled as Terry Funk and a mystery partner against Hawk & Sabu, Madusa vs. Sherri Martel, Tommy Cairo vs. Kevin Sullivan in what is billed as a shooting style match (does that make the rest of the card working style?), Mr. Hughes vs. Johnny Gunn, Sal Bellomo vs. Rockin Rebel in a chair fight (each man gets a chair and they can use it until one man is left standing) and Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond vs. Public Enemy in a crowd makes the choice of the stipulation match.

NOVEMBER 15, 1993

On the ECW television show that aired on 11/2, announcer Joey Styles opened the show "caught offguard" reading the Newsday story with the giant headline "Steroids: WWF Boss may be pinned" visible to the camera. That television show is definitely different. They've been plugging a main event for 11/13 with Hawk & Sabu vs. Terry Funk & mystery partner. They did a segment where local promoter Tod Gordon tells Paul E. Dangerously (who puts this TV together and is Sabu's manager) that the identity of the partner is no mystery and shows Paul the name, and he freaks out. Then Tod goes to tell the name to the fans and right before he says the name, a test pattern appears on the screen. They also announced that is Hawk & Sabu lose, then Sabu loses his ECW title, and if Funk & partner lose, Funk loses his TV title. They are also doing a campy segment with Jason Knight as a manager doing a Rick Martel gimmick but taking it farther than Martel ever did.

NOVEMBER 22, 1993

The "November to Remember" on 11/13 in Philadelphia drew 1,492 fans which is the group's largest crowd and gate to date. Most reports are it was an average-to-good show overall. King Kong Bundy, who hasn't wrestled in about six years, turned out

to be Terry Funk's mystery partner against Hawk & Sabu. Bundy looked to weigh in the 350-380 range. With Hawk's knee being out, they did a gimmick where he was handcuffed to the post immediately making Sabu the face in a 1-on-2 situation. Hawk juiced heavily. It wound up with Bundy turning on Funk and Sabu pinning Funk. Sabu had put his ECW title up in the match and Funk put his TV title up so Sabu is now a double champion. The result of Sabu pinning a legend like Funk has upped Sabu's rep in Japan already. It looks as though they are building the next major show to a Funk vs. Sabu singles match. The Sensational Sherri vs. Madusa match never took place as Madusa sent word a few days ahead she couldn't work the show and Malia Hosaka took her place. The match itself was said to have been terrible. Sherri ended up disqualified for hitting everyone in sight with a chair and wound up with valet Angel, Don E. Allen and the referee all juicing. They announced that Madusa wasn't there because she had signed a WWF contract and Vince McMahon had told her not to work the ECW show, although Madusa did work an indie in Baltimore the same night and one the next night in the same area. Johnny Gunn & Tommy Dreamer won the ECW tag titles from Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson. Stetson & Hot Body had just beaten Ian & Axl Rotten and were challenged by Gunn & Dreamer impromptu for the belts ala Hulk-Yokozuna and the faces won in 20 seconds. The "shoot fight" with Kevin Sullivan vs. Tommy Cairo was a mess as they announced you couldn't win by pinfall, only knockout or submission, and Kevin won hitting Cairo with a chair and pinning him in 3:00 of a match that included nothing of the "shoot fight" style.

The previous night's television taping in Philadelphia drew 151 fans and most of the taping won't be airing because the production quality isn't up to snuff.

Pat Tanaka is working on a blown out ankle and two broken ribs. Rib injury is courtesy of Mable landing on him.

NOVEMBER 29, 1993

Funk vs. Sabu on 12/26 in Philadelphia.

DECEMBER 20, 1993

ECW runs a Christmas show on 12/26 at the ECW Arena with Terry Funk vs. Sabu in a no DQ match on top, a Lights Out Battle Royal and a match where one member of Bad Company (Tanaka & Diamond) faces one member of Public Enemy and the other guy on each team will be in separate cages that will explode at the 15:00 mark if the partner can't get the key to let them out.

JANUARY 3, 1994

We've received only sketchy reports of the ECW show on 12/26 in Philadelphia, but the crowd was said to be the second largest ever, in the 1,200 range which was a packed house, and Terry Funk beat Sabu in the main event. Most of the talk centered after about how upset everyone was with the FMW-idea like explosion. It turned out to be flares set off like in every major AAA ring entrance, and a tape played over the p.a. of an explosion and people were said to be furious and chanting refund. Funk-Sabu was said to be a very good match.

JANUARY 10, 1994

Some notes on the 12/26 ECW show in Philadelphia. Terry Funk's win over Sabu was for the ECW title, but not the TV title (which Sabu also holds). Mike Awesome (Gladiator in FMW) debuted on the show. Don't have any confirmation, but apparently they'll be doing a television taping sometime this week and another major show toward the end of the month. Wrestlers have been told of a tentative first World Wrestling Network (WWN) taping at the Manhattan Center in New York (where Monday Night Raw originally emanated from) on either 1/22 or 1/24, although word we get is nothing will be finalized until late this week.

JANUARY 17, 1994

ECW had to move its TV taping from 1/7 to 1/8 because of bad weather, and the result was taping before 150 fans, reportedly less than 100 paid. From all accounts, the highlight of the tape was a 45:00 draw between Terry Funk (who won the ECW title from Sabu on 12/26) and Shane Douglas. Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond won a non-title match from ECW tag champs Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac. It appears the plan is to headline on 2/5 with a triangular match with Funk, Douglas and Sabu and one would figure a tag title match. While lots of people will criticize the triangular match concept, my feeling is there are two kinds of people in power positions in wrestling organizations, those that know it all and those who learn from what's going on in the wrestling world. In recent months in this country, the triangular deal was used twice in drawing positions, in AAA and SMW. In SMW, two of the three shows drew above average with it on top and with AAA, the show went through the roof. With that being the case, to dismiss the idea on the surface is either ignoring or being ignorant of your business. That isn't to say it'll work in Philadelphia, but as a concept it is worthy of an experiment. Having said that, based on what I've seen in Mexico where those matches aren't that unusual, those matches usually are too unwieldy until one guy is eliminated and it comes down to a regular singles match.

JANUARY 24, 1994

ECW on 2/5 in Philadelphia has the triangular match with Sabu vs. Terry Funk vs. Shane Douglas, Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac defending the tag titles against Pat Tanaka & The Sheik (as in Ed Farhat) and Sandman & Tommy Cairo vs. Rockin Rebel & Pit Bull in a double dog collar match.

FEBRUARY 7, 1994

Got a chance to finally see the past several weeks of ECW television. The Terry Funk-Shane Douglas 45:00 draw was a very good match that didn't lag on television even though it was old style, as in OLD style (first several minutes Funk had Douglas in a headlock; Douglas worked over Funk's arm, which Funk even juiced, seemingly forever, etc.). It was much better than anything on recent WWF or WCW big shows, and even though the crowd was so tiny it looked like the smallest of minor league promotions, the match built and had excellent heat at the end. Funk vs. Sabu was completely different, a total creative brawl with insane bumps from both men. Even though this is like stating the obvious, Funk, who turns 50 this year, is still one of the five or six best workers in the country. As for the

TV itself, announcer Joey Styles reminds me of an early Jim Ross sans accent in that he does a great job of getting all the key points across, but is so intense for the entire hour that it's almost like he's banging you over the head with a hammer getting those points across. The interviews all have a booker Paul E. Dangerously blueprint on them, loaded with fake-shoot references like Kevin Sullivan building up his tag match against Pat Tanaka talking about how when he wrestled in Florida that Pat's father (the late Duke Keomuka, who was part owner of the Florida office) used to short guys on payoffs and never give accurate house figures and Tanaka saying that when The Sheik (his partner) came to Florida years ago that Sullivan left the territory. The production values and overall look of the show is minor league. The character development is great, of both established and new characters. Shane Douglas, nicknamed "The Franchise," is put over like a legit singles main eventer, Sabu is effectively a 1990s Jimmy Snuka and Jason does Rick Martel better than Rick Martel. Overall I thought the shows were good, although my one complaint is that there is too much repeated material each week, and interviewer Matty in the House can only be watched with the fast forward button on. For example, the Funk-Sabu match was great, but it seemed like the match aired three or four straight weeks on TV. It's obvious that during the last month there weren't enough matches taped for television to put together one hour weekly shows, as one show went more than 20 minutes of music videos, repeated highlights and interviews before you actually saw a match.

FEBRUARY 14, 1994

With the World Wrestling Federation out of the country this past weekend, as it will be for much of the next two months, and World Championship Wrestling running no major house shows over the weekend, it was Eastern Championship Wrestling that took the real center stage of the weekend's pro wrestling activity.

The Philadelphia group put on what numerous readers called the best house show from any promotion in years in Philadelphia, and what seems to have been the most highly regarded house show in North America so far this year (that's a lot fainter praise if you think about it), selling out the small ECW Arena, estimated crowd with sets of extra bleachers put into the building in excess of 1,300 (tickets \$25 and \$12) on 2/5 for a triangular match with Sabu, Terry Funk and Shane Douglas with Funk's ECW title at stake. The match went to a legitimate 60:00 draw with no falls taken and was rated between ***1/2 and ***** by various readers. After momentary hesitation, the crowd gave the three men, all technically heels, a standing ovation for their performance, causing both Funk and booker Paul E. Dangerously to remark that they had finally reached the level of a Japanese audience. Douglas was actually the only one of the three to do the 60:00, as various angles created during the match took both Sabu and Funk out of the ring for various periods of time. Another match on the show pretty well universally given ****+ was a brawl all over the building between The Public Enemy and Bruise Brothers which saw Bruise Brothers pretty well destroy the arena before losing at the end, knocking down literally everyone (including several fans) and everything that got in their way. In addition, The Sheik, in his late 60s, wrestled his first match in the United States in several years, teaming with Pat Tanaka to beat Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac when Sheik

threw a fireball at Tazmaniac. It appears, based on post-match interviews, that the next step is a 3/5 show in the same building headlined by a Funk vs. Douglas I Quit match.

Besides the 2/5 show, ECW also held a television taping on 2/4 before about 200 fans, all kids from the Variety Club, a local charity that promoter Tod Gordon works with, at the ECW Arena. The highlight was the holding up of the tag team title. Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac (champs) were facing the Bruise Brothers and they did a double pin finish. The Bruise Brothers grabbed the belt and went to leave with them, but were attacked by Sullivan & Tazmaniac with chairs. While the four brawled, Public Enemy came to ringside and left with the belts. This sets up the 3/5 show with Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy and the winners then facing Sullivan & Tazmaniac with the belts going to the winner of the second match.

They also began to set up a feud with Sandman vs. long-time valet and real-life wife Peaches. Heel manager Jason threw something in Sandman's eyes and he accidentally punched Peaches. In an interview taped later that will air in upcoming weeks, Sandman, who is a face, starts acting like a heel and talking about Peaches saying "Life's a bitch, and then you marry one" and saying that's what happens when a woman puts herself in a man's place. Actually, given the make-up of the ECW crowd, that'll probably turn him face.

Mike Awesome was said to have gotten over huge at the card by giving the referee a power bomb after he lost to J.T. Smith in a 2:00 match. Awesome (FMW Gladiator), who is about 6-4, 290, did an incredible tope to start the match.

FEBRUARY 21, 1994

ECW is not on Channel America every Tuesday night with a show one week behind the show that airs on Philadelphia cable. The USWA show that formerly aired on Tuesday nights has been moved to Fridays.

FEBRUARY 28, 1994

The next ECW line-up is 3/5 in Philadelphia at the ECW Arena with Terry Funk vs. Shane Douglas in a taped fist match, Road Warrior Hawk vs. Mr. Hughes, Public Enemy vs. Bruise Brothers with falls counting anywhere and the winning team faces Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac for the held up ECW tag titles, Sabu vs. Mike Awesome (FMW Gladiator) for the ECW TV title and Jimmy Snuka vs. Tommy Dreamer. Paul E. Dangerously is still handling the booking for Tod Gordon although there may be problems in the future since Dangerously is going to work for Crockett full-time when WWN gets going which is expected to be imminently and wants Gordon to be part of WWN, but Gordon seems to want to promote shows independently on his own rather than be part of a larger promotion.

MARCH 7, 1994

For those of you who are tape collectors and haven't seen these items, they are must-sees: 1) The 12/10 All Japan women's house show featuring the tag tourney finals (Akira Hokuto & Manami Toyota vs. Toshiyo Yamada & Kyoko Inoue) which are two different matches on the same card, both about 16:00 in length and each right at *****. Either match is a match of the year candidate and together they really need to be seen. 2) The ECW interview segment with Terry Funk and Shane

Douglas that aired on 2/8. Funk is great as expected, but Douglas' performance was even better than Funk's. It seems everyone missed the boat on this guy but if you see the way he handled himself on the interview you'll never have to be convinced he's got superstar written all over him.

MARCH 21, 1994

Next house show is 3/26 in Valley Forge, PA with an eight man cage match billed as Ultimate Jeopardy with Terry Funk & Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac & Road Warrior Hawk vs. Mr. Hughes & Public Enemy & Shane Douglas. The stipulations are that if Funk loses, he loses the ECW title to whomever in him, if Sullivan & Tasmaniac lose, they must split up their team, if Hawk loses, he can no longer ever wrestle with the Road Warrior gimmick (fat chance that's going to happen), if Hughes loses, then Jason must go into the cage for five minutes alone against all four members of the other team, if Public Enemy loses, they lose the ECW tag titles (which they won on 2/6 from Sullivan & Tasmaniac) and have to leave town and if Douglas loses, he gets his head shaved.

Also at the 3/6 tapings, the ECW TV title changed hands twice with Sabu losing to Tasmaniac, who then lost it to J.T. Smith. Apparently this happened more because Sabu refused to drop the strap to Smith, but was willing to put over Tasmaniac, so in getting it to where he wanted it, booker Paul Heyman had to add another title change.

The 3/5 house show at ECW Arena drew another sellout of 1,400 headlined by a taped fist match where Terry Funk kept the ECW title beating Shane Douglas in 22:46 in a match rated between ***3/4 and ****3/4 depending upon who you talk to, with most around ****. Bruise Brothers lost via DQ in a tag title challenge to Sullivan & Tasmaniac when Public Enemy attacked both teams with boards. In the TV title match, Sabu pinned Mike Awesome. At one point Sabu had Awesome on a ringside table and then climbed to the top rope to moonsault him but he undershot and crashed onto the floor. No matter, Sabu still got up and when 911 attacked Awesome and laid him out on the table, Sabu this time gave him a flying splash off the top rope onto the table and threw Awesome into the ring for the pin. Awesome attacked the ref afterwards.

APRIL 4, 1994

Three shows over the weekend which were largely described as way below par. The 3/26 Valley Forge, PA show which drew about 700 featured little underneath although Peaches and Sandman continued their break-up, with an eight-man War Games style cage match with numerous stipulations with Mr. Hughes & Shane Douglas & Public Enemy over Terry Funk & Road Warrior Hawk & Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac rated ***1/2 in the match nobody could afford to lose. It wound up with everyone climbing out of the cage (isn't the whole idea of cage matches to avoid this?) and brawling all over the place with Sherri Martel involved, leaving Funk in with both Douglas and Hughes. They double-teamed Funk and Douglas pulled out a plastic bag and suffocated Funk (ala Funk/Ric Flair in 1989 Clash), putting him out so Douglas could pin him and thus win the ECW title. The show that evening in Dover, DE was a little better quality with Douglas retaining his title losing via DQ to Funk before an estimated 430 and Hawk winning a Battle Royal. A free TV taping in Philadelphia on 3/27 which drew about 350 was mainly to set up the next ECW Arena house show on 4/16 headlined by Douglas defending against Hawk. In a Bad Company (Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond) match with

Pit Bull & Rockin Rebel, Jason began arguing with Rebel. An ECW title match with Douglas vs. Diamond saw Martel hit Diamond with a chair at the bell for the pin. Tanaka ran out and he was also hit with a chair and KO'd. Hawk then came out and he was hit with a chair, but didn't sell it at all, and Douglas and Martel ran off. Later in the show, Mr. Hughes did the sidewalk slam on six different guys, egged on by Douglas, when Hawk came out. Hughes sidewalk slammed Hawk and Douglas came off the top rope on him and left him laying.

APRIL 11, 1994

Speaking of Sabu, and somebody always is, he didn't refuse to put J.T. Smith over for the ECW TV title as was reported here. Technically it was suggested he put Smith over and he was asked about putting Smith or Tasmaniac over and he decided he'd rather put Tasmaniac over.

APRIL 25, 1994

The fact that at least a limited agreement was reached between WCW and ECW became evident at the ECW show on 4/16 in Philadelphia during a match between Terry Funk vs. Sabu. The card was originally scheduled as Funk vs. Mr. Hughes and Sabu vs. mystery opponent as two supporting matches underneath Shane Douglas vs. Road Warrior Hawk for the ECW title (an uneventful match with a heel DQ finish that took place early in the card) with the crowd down a few hundred from the full houses the past few major shows, with 890 paid. After Hughes cost the Bruise Brothers a tag team title match against Public Enemy, the Brothers attacked Hughes twice, the second time on way to the ring for this match, leaving him "unable to wrestle." Paul E. Dangerously eventually clocked Funk with a telephone and Sabu, brought out by three masked handlers on a gurney, wound up wrestling Funk. They had their typical ****1/4 brawl for 12:28 complete with a broken table and piledrivers on chairs. Funk put the spinning toe hold on Sabu when one of the masked men interfered, however Funk beat him to the punch and unmasked him, revealing the Rockin Rebel, an ECW regular mid-card wrestler. The same scenario happened a second time, with Funk unmasking another handler as a bald guy who just ran off. As this was about to happen a third time, Funk was distracted and the masked wrestler gave him a neckbreaker and a forearm drop off the top rope and Sabu pinned Funk. At this point 911 (a large monster-type undercard wrestler being groomed for a program with Hawk) blocked the face dressing room as Sabu, the masked man who Dangerously unmasked as Bobby Eaton, and Dangerously continued to attack Funk. When promoter Tod Gordon tried to interfere, he took his obligatory bump courtesy of Eaton and Dangerously started pounding on him. Finally Arn Anderson came in and cleaned house, to set up a 5/14 show with Sabu & Eaton vs. Funk & Anderson. The story behind this is WCW wanted to work with ECW in the Northeast to aid in promoting Slamboree in Philadelphia, plus as a revenge against the WWF for aiding SMW for cards in Marietta, GA. Gary Juster, who has become Bischoff's right-hand man in many aspects, offered Gordon any wrestler and in return proposed a deal which included WCW getting four weeks of one ad per show for Slamboree on the ECW show, and an interview with Funk plugging his match with Tully Blanchard at Slamboree on the show. WCW offered to put some ECW wrestlers on its TBS shows for a few weeks to build up an ECW feud, but that proposal was turned down. Dangerously, who still has a lot of bad blood with the WCW hierarchy, in particular Bill Shaw and Bob D'Ue because of how his dismissal and post-dismissal legal action was handled, initially didn't want to make the deal, but asked for Steve Austin

and Brian Pillman first, with Pillman to be Sabu's mystery opponent on the show. WCW turned down the request not wanting either to be injured for Spring Stampede the next day, but did send Anderson and Eaton to the show to do an angle and several weeks worth of interviews leading to the 5/14 show. Gordon is also interested in booking Ric Flair and/or Cactus Jack for future dates, although apparently nobody else has even been asked about. ECW is also planning on becoming a regular weekend promotion rather than a one show and one TV taping per month outfit, as starting in June the plan is to run shows every Friday and Saturday night throughout the Northeast, which would require getting television in numerous new markets.

More notes from the 4/16 ECW show in Philadelphia. Pit Bull won the TV title from J.T. Smith. Smith came out on crutches and was then attacked by Public Enemy. He went on with his match anyway but was put in a submission and the ref stopped the match. Sandman and Tommy Cairo had a hot but short brawl when ref Sal Bellomo counted fast on Sandman, who kept threatening him. Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy Lumberjack match for the ECW tag title saw both members of Enemy bleed but Hughes hit one of the Bruise Brothers with a chair giving Enemy the win.

Shane Douglas did an interview on the ECW TV that airs this week sending Sherri Martel "on vacation" to explain her leaving for WCW. Douglas needs shoulder surgery at some point in the near future.

MAY 2, 1994

ECW on 5/14 in Philadelphia called "When World's Collide" with Sabu & Bobby Eaton vs. Terry Funk & Arn Anderson plus a Singapore Caning match, loser to be whacked six times with a Singapore cane (actually a kendo stick) with Sandman & Woman vs. Tommy Cairo & Peaches and Pit Bull defending ECW TV title against Tasmaniac. At this point the ECW/WCW agreement is only for this show and in return, ECW will plug the WCW PPV show. Tod Gordon said he would be interested in doing future business with WCW, but since his booker Paul Heyman has a problem with it, he doesn't want to put Heyman in a position where he'd have a problem so this may be as far as it goes. ECW is looking at running regular shows in Wildwood, NJ and Montgomeryville, PA starting in June and has Dennis Galam headed to Florida to book a four-city Florida house show tour which is planned for the summer. The ECW TV show starts 5/6 on the American Independent cable network. Kevin Sullivan will still work for this group when he doesn't have WCW commitments. They have also signed Sabu to an exclusive deal for the states of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania which eliminates him from several indie groups he had been working with and are working on getting Terry Funk for a similar agreement.

MAY 16, 1994

Sabu suffered serious enough injuries in Japan that he missed his scheduled match in West Babylon, NY on 5/7, although he appeared at the show with his hands in casts. He is expected to return to action this weekend working 5/14 in Philadelphia teaming with Bobby Eaton vs. Arn Anderson & Terry Funk on the ECW show, and the next night in Lincoln Park, MI (near Detroit) vs. Funk for promoter Malcolm Monroe.

Speaking of Funk, after his match with Chris Benoit a few weeks ago at Dennis Corraluzzo's show, Funk attacked

Coraluzzo as part of an angle but said how ECW (Coraluzzo's rival) was better than Coraluzzo's NWA.

It doesn't look like ECW is going to reach its goals of two shows per weekend by June, as thus far there are only three dates booked for June. Dennis Galam was looking into buildings in Florida this past week attempting to arrange an ECW tour for late summer.

MAY 26, 1994

The 5/14 Philadelphia show, which drew the group's largest crowd to date (reported as a sellout 1,558 although I'm sure that figure will be disputed), was headlined by Sabu & Bobby Eaton beating Terry Funk & Arn Anderson in a **** match. After Funk took a bump onto a table, breaking it, he used a piece of the table and piledrove Eaton on it. Finish saw Funk accidentally hit Anderson with a chair. Anderson got back up and hit Funk with a chair and walked out on him, leaving him against both and Funk finally submitted to a half boston crab by Sabu. What was scheduled as an eight-man elimination match with The Bruise Brothers & Road Warrior Hawk & J.T. Smith vs. Mr. Hughes & Public Enemy & Shane Douglas wound up as a 3-on-4 since Hawk failed to appear, reportedly because he blew out his knee. It wound up with the Bruise Brothers, Douglas and Hughes all brawling all over the building and getting counted out, leaving Smith against both members of Public Enemy, with Smith pinning each man. The Bruise Brothers knocked into and knocked down several fans in their brawl into the stands. The first of what will surely be many Singapore Caning matches saw Peaches & Tommy Cairo beating Woman & Sandman. After Peaches pinned Sandman (her husband) after Cairo had KO'd him, Peaches pulled down Sandman's trunks and hit him three times with the kendo stick. Woman then threw salt in Peaches' eyes and Sandman gave Cairo a low blow and Sandman destroyed both Peaches and Cairo with the kendo stick.

At the TV tapings the night before, they did a gimmick where jobber Mikey Whiprecht won the TV title from Pit Bull due to interference of Taz-maniac. Whiprecht then retained the title against top heels Kevin Sullivan, Mr. Hughes and Johnny Grunge all via fluke DQ finishes. At the 5/14 card, Whiprecht wrestled 911. 911 kept giving Whiprecht his choke slam finisher but refused to pin him. When the ref started yelling at 911, 911 gave both the ref and Whiprecht choke slams at the same time, but it caused a DQ ruling.

MAY 30, 1994

The Bruise Brothers and announcer Joey Styles are no longer with ECW. Bruise Brothers were fired after last weekend's show because they were too out of control in the audience and some fans were hurt. Styles apparently quit over wanting more money.

Upcoming ECW dates are 6/3 in Montgomeryville, PA with Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Public Enemy vs. J.T. Smith & Tommy Dreamer and falls count anywhere with Sandman vs. Tommy Cairo. Next ECW Arena date is 6/24 with Terry & Dory Funk vs. Public Enemy, Sandman vs. Cairo in a cane on a pole match and Taz-maniac vs. Pit Bull in a dog collar match. ECW also has dates 6/17 in Montgomeryville, PA and 6/25 in Yonkers, NY, 7/15 in Woodbridge, NJ and 7/17 in Wildwood, NJ.

JUNE 6, 1994

Tod Gordon is getting to put on his personal dream match on 6/24 in Philadelphia--Sabu vs. Cactus Jack as Gordon is getting Jack for two dates. On 6/25, Jack will wrestle Mr. Hughes on the ECW debut card in Yonkers, NY, which will be headlined by Sabu vs. Terry Funk.

A correction on what was reported last week, The Bruise Brothers weren't fired but were reprimanded. Joey Styles left as announcer largely because the Sunday post-production sessions go on all night long and he was dying at his regular job every Monday.

JUNE 10, 1994

The first-ever meeting of Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio took place on first show on 6/3 in Montgomeryville, PA before about 250 paid. Sabu won when he did an Asai moonsault onto Scorpio who was lying on a table. 911 and Paul E. Dangerously threw Scorpio back in the ring and he was pinned. Apparently the two worked great together. The current plan is to book shows every other Friday night in Montgomeryville.

The 6/24 show in Yonkers, NY (Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Cactus Jack vs. Mr. Hughes) will be at Yonkers Raceway.

Sabu is planning on undergoing surgery on one of his broken hands in July. The other hand didn't need surgery. He broke both hands in early May in Japan, and in order to close the cut on one so he could continue working, he used super glue to act as stitches on the hand. The hand got infected, although it wasn't due to the super glue.

One of the funniest angles in recent years going on involves Mikey Whiprecht, doing the Randy Mulkey gimmick but taking it tons farther (ie, not killing it as soon as it started working). Whiprecht gets destroyed in every match, but somehow the heels get DQ'd on a fluke and he continues to retain his TV title even though he never even gets an offensive move in. He's great in the role and takes killer bumps for the heels.

Please, no more Mr. Hughes videos to the song "Ruffneck."

The reason Joey Styles left as an announcer was not due to money, but due to the amount of time it takes on Sundays to put together the television show (this TV really should be seen because it is anything but a bunch of slop thrown on the air to fill time. It's the constantly improving calculated result of a real Mad Scientist at work in that it has a different look from any television show on the market), and he was killing himself trying to be functional at work at his regular job on Mondays. The new announcer is a black man named Willie Watts, which obviously isn't his real name but a shot at Cowboy Bill.

Shane Douglas is already back in action after shoulder surgery, as he worked an indie in Butler, PA on 6/4.

JULY 4, 1994

The ultimate hardcore match with Sabu vs. Cactus Jack on 6/24 in South Philadelphia failed to sellout the small ECW Arena, drawing a crowd estimated at between 950 by those calling in to the 1,390 claimed by the promotion. There were many, including promoter Tod Gordon who felt that match-up

in Philadelphia was a guaranteed sellout. All the regular excuses flew around about why the automatic sellout didn't (a baseball game in town, a Janet Jackson concert in town, summer and no A.C. in the building, etc.) but Paul E. Dangerously put it best after the show saying it didn't sellout because they had overestimated the drawing power of the match. Opinions on the match and show overall varied, with several regulars being disappointed and others, who don't attend regularly, saying it was very good to great. We actually received numerous complaints about the constant run-ins and outside interference. Sabu vs. Jack garnered ratings between **3/4 and ****. The consensus was it wasn't of the calibre of most of the recent ECW Philadelphia main events. Many said that all the brawling in the undercard, particularly in the Public Enemy vs. Funk Brothers match, burned the crowd out so the two had a hard time getting heat. Sabu won the match due to interference from Paul E. Dangerously, and after the match broke a beer bottle over Jack's head. Jack was legitimately injured in the match and appeared but couldn't wrestle on the 6/25 show in Yonkers, NY.

Next show at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia is 7/16 with Shane Douglas defending ECW title against Sabu, Funk Brothers vs. Public Enemy in a barbed wire match, Tazmaniac & mystery partner vs. Pit Bulls, 911 vs. Mr. Hughes and Mikey Whippreck defending the TV title against Chad Austin.

On 6/24, they had Don E. Allen vs. Chad Austin just starting out when 911 came out and choke slammed both wrestlers and the referee. Promoter Tod Gordon came out and clocked Paul E. Dangerously, and 911 choke slammed Gordon as well. Tazmaniac beat Pit Bull in a dog collar match but after the match the second Pit Bull jumped Taz and left him laying. The Sandman-Tommy Cairo Singapore cane on a pole match ended when Sandman got a second cane from under the ring and used it, and both Woman and Peaches got involved at the end. Funks vs. Public Enemy ended when 911 and Dangerously interfered attacking Dory, and then just about everyone else interfered as well, and it wound up with Terry and Rocko Rock brawling in the Eagle's nest and Funk tied a rope to Rock's angle and threw him over the balcony where Rock hung upside down tied to a chord by his ankle. Mikey Whippreck of course kept the TV title when Rockin Rebel was DQ'd for Jason's interference and Sabu pinned Cactus Jack.

6/25 in Yonkers saw Sabu pin Terry Funk when Dangerously interfered, but after the match Dory ran in and made the save for a bloody Terry.

TV was taped 6/26 in Philadelphia saw Douglas & Hughes beat Bruise Brothers in a cage match, evening the score since Bruise Brothers had won a prior match on 6/24. Whippreck kept the TV title beating Pit Bull #2 via DQ. Sabu beat Chad Austin. Austin then insulted the fans saying all hardcore fans were scum to turn himself heel and into the heel loser opponent for Whippreck. Austin then pinned himself in a match with Rockin Rebel. Show highlight was a wild brawl with Funks & Tommy Dreamer vs. Public Enemy & Hack Myers. Dreamer pinned Myers, who wore a Public Enemy outfit, for the fall. Douglas attacked Dreamer after the match which ended in a pull-apart brawl. Then two of the men doing the pull-apart, Mr. Hughes and 911 got into it with Hughes slugging 911 three times, then both going for simultaneous chokes when they started being pulled apart. Then during the pull-apart, Douglas and Sabu went at it as well.

Phi Delta Slam from Florida debuted and Axl & Ian Rotten have returned.

Cactus Jack did a strong negative WCW interview after his match with Sabu.

JULY 18, 1994

Caught several weeks worth of ECW tapes. Boy do I miss Joey Styles as an announcer. They had a ***+ match on television with Sabu and Too Cold Scorpio on TV a few weeks back taped from Montgomeryville, PA. The show that was scheduled to air on 7/5 was pre-empted because of the O.J. Simpson hearings and follow-up news coverage. Paul E. Dangerously did an interview going nuts about O.J. when the show aired two days later. This group also has the most interesting names for its jobbers, many of whom are named after local indie promoters that they have heat with like Joel Hartgood (after Joel Goodhart, the former Philadelphia promoter) and even cult hero jobber and TV champ Mikey Whippreck was named after Dennis Whipprecht, another local promoter.

AUGUST 1, 1994

Something funny happened at the end of the barbed wire match on 7/16 at the ECW Arena. After a bloodbath with the Funk Brothers vs. Public Enemy which ended with approximately 80 chairs in the ring, Terry Funk wrapped up in barbed wire with a garbage can stuck to his chest, and a brawl which went out of the building into the parking lot while dozens of the elderly were arriving at the building for their weekly Saturday midnight bingo (the ECW Arena doubles as a bingo hall), the fans gave both wrestlers and the show a standing ovation, and then chanted "ECW, ECW."

The folks who bring you it's not for everyone wrestling, Eastern Championship Wrestling in Philadelphia, ran their monthly card at the ECW Arena before about 850 of the hardest-core fans in the country. The converted bingo hall is even smaller and more dingy in person than it appears on television, and I don't see how you could put more than 1,000 in the building. But the ECW Arena is the closest thing crowd-wise to Korakuen Hall in Tokyo. Its fans don't care about faces or heels. They cheer and boo who they won't, not who they're told to. And they are more knowledgeable about wrestling than any other crowd in the country. Like only the top Japan groups and AAA, the promotion itself is over to its audience to the point where even the referees are over.

ECW isn't the wrestling of the past. It may not be the wrestling of the future. But it is right now the most innovative English language wrestling in the country, headlined by night-in and night-out the best performer in the country today, and that sure ain't Bret Hart. Or even Ric Flair. It's Sabu.

Sabu, who did a plancha into a Frankensteiner while doing a run-in earlier in the show, did his first stretcher job ever in Philadelphia against ECW champ Shane Douglas in the semifinal match. Sabu sat Douglas down in a chair outside the ring, then got in the ring and gave Douglas and the chair a tope. Douglas wound up still in one piece when it was over. The chair wasn't as lucky. There were the requisite broken tables from suplexes. There were old-style moves and new-style moves. Brutal chair shots. A cannonball dive by Sabu off the apron. It blew anything on the next night's PPV show away, as did the show as a whole when compared with the WCW

show in Orlando. And then, as they were going to the finish, all the power went off in the building. This was no angle. About a minute later, the power came on, and it didn't take the two long to regain the killed momentum. Sabu set up a table vertically and put Douglas standing by it. He then did an Asai-moonsault, but Douglas moved and Sabu crashed into the table almost like moonsaulting into a wall. He was taken away on a stretcher after losing via count out, but not before local favorite 911 managed by choke slam Douglas, Mr. Hughes and valet Angel (who must have jumped six feet in the air before taking the bump) to the biggest pops on the show.

After taking literally forever to take the ropes down and do an FMW style barbed wire match, it was up to the Funks and Public Enemy to follow. Barbed wire matches are traditionally awful. What can you do but bleed? Somehow this didn't fit the bill. All four bled like crazy, but it would have been every bit as great without it. After brawling in the crowd, using wire cutters to take one side of the wire down and wrapping Terry up in it, and brawling outside the building, came Terry grabbing the house mic and asking for a chair. It was raining chairs within seconds, much as the raining pillows after the Muto-Vader match at the 1991 G-1 Climax tournament match. This was a little too dangerous, however. The wrestlers were being blindsided with chairs left and right as fans were throwing every chair they could find into the ring. All it would take is one bad throw and someone in the audience getting hit the wrong way, and the promotion would be having too many problems. For all its positives, we're not for everyone could have been we're not for anyone with one fan who couldn't aim a chair hitting the wrong target. Somewhere amidst all this, Terry did a clean job, after which Dory destroyed the Public Enemy with one chair shot after another. Terry once again asked the fans to throw him a chair, and it was raining chairs again with chair shots galore. Finally, wrapped up in barbed wire, Terry left the ring with Dory while the Public Enemy was buried under a sea of furniture. When they finally got up, the fans, realizing the show was over, gave them, although it was really the show itself, a standing ovation. No, it's not for everyone. But for those who it is for, they give them a great show.

ECW is expected to start on MSG cable in September, which will lead to expanding into the New York market. Next major ECW show is 8/13 with Mikey Whippreck vs. Jason for the TV title, 911 vs. Mr. Hughes and Terry Funk vs. Cactus Jack. Jack is still under contract to WCW at that time and word we get is they're cutting off working with ECW so we'll have to wait for confirmation of the match. Even though Funk works with WCW, he's an independent and not under contract to them. They'll be holding a tournament to determine the NWA heavyweight champ (who will end up working for Crockett) on 8/27 in Woodbridge, NJ.

AUGUST 8, 1994

Next major show is 8/13 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia with Terry Funk vs. Cactus Jack, Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio, 911 vs. Mr. Hughes, Mikey Whippreck defending the TV title against Jason, Public Enemy defending the tag titles against Axl & Ian Rotten, Sandman vs. Tommy Dreamer and more.

The NWA title tournament will be taking place 8/27 in Philadelphia (moved from Woodbridge, NJ). No word on a talent list or if this tournament will have anything to do with NWA promoters elsewhere including Jim Crockett.

Joey Styles has been back as announcer the past few weeks.

There has been a ton of heat from WCW about the television here, particularly interviews by Funk and Jack. Funk did an interview talking about wrestling in WCW but saying that he tells everyone, and gets a lot of flack for it, that ECW is where it's at. Jack's interview where he spat and threw down the WCW tag title belt got even more heat, particularly when he screeched that he isn't a family entertainer. Note to those in the WCW office: Pro wrestling is a work. Interviews are done to get people over. ECW fans largely hate WCW and WWF. They watch it, but they hate it. ECW wrestlers, like Shane Douglas, do interviews knocking Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan because that's what that very selective audience wants to hear. Under normal circumstances I'd totally agree with the common thought that you don't acknowledge and give credibility to the competition, but in this particular situation because of the unique audience they play to, that rule goes out the window. Because he understands the audience he's playing to and because they are great interviews, Jack's interviews where he talks about his reputation as being the most psychotic wrestler until Sabu came along, where he threw down the WCW tag belt, and Sabu was better than him, are the best interviews on any wrestling show in recent weeks.

ECW is tentatively looking at running two house shows in September in Tampa and Ocala, FL, however that may be moved back to October because they're negotiating for a slot with the Sunshine Network.

AUGUST 14, 1994

ECW will be debuting on The Sunshine Network in Florida (a sports cable station) within the next two months. Negotiations are also going on with other cable sports networks (HSE, Rocky Mountain Prime, Prime Ticket and PASS). The 8/13 Public Enemy vs. Bad Breed match has been changed to a baseball bat match, playing off the fact that baseball is expected to be on strike as of a few days before the house show. The NWA tournament on 8/27 in Philadelphia will include probably three outsiders plus the regular ECW crew. No names confirmed although several have mentioned Dean Malenko's name.

AUGUST 22, 1994

The name National Wrestling Alliance, a decade after its fall from being the most prominent and dominant wrestling organization in the world, is back alive and in the middle of controversy. Well, the organization doesn't look alive, but the name is back.

The latest controversy around the NWA name and world championship belts stems from a tournament Tod Gordon of Eastern Championship Wrestling is promoting on 8/27 in Philadelphia at the ECW Arena. Gordon announced at his 7/16 house show in Philadelphia that he would be promoting an NWA world heavyweight title tournament, and originally announced it for Woodbridge, NJ but after much complaining from his loyal Philadelphia fans, switched it to the ECW Arena.

However, the NWA, at this point, doesn't approve. The NWA name, founded by several Midwestern wrestling promoters in 1948, quickly on the back of champion Lou Thesz and President Sam Muchnick became the most recognized wrestling championship in the world. The NWA world heavyweight title has remained in existence largely in name only since the WCW/NWA first split-up in 1991 over Jim Herd stripping Ric Flair of the title making it the first title change that

didn't take place in the ring since Orville Brown forfeited the title to Lou Thesz after a career ending auto accident in 1949, and second split in 1993.

The main thing that kept the organization of dozens of backstabbing wrestling promoters and promotions on several continents together until being destroyed from both the outside (by Vince McMahon) and from within (both by Jim Crockett's monopolizing the title in his quest to fight McMahon and by the membership at large being unable to work together and falling apart at the seams) in the late 1980s, was the world heavyweight championship, a belt so important that its holder was generally the top drawing wrestler and biggest money maker in the world during most of that period.

That title belt could be traced from the first champion, Brown, who forfeited the title to Thesz, who already held the much-recognized National Wrestling Association version of the title. In gaining power throughout the world, Thesz and Muchnick proceeded to gobble up regional versions of the title in numerous parts of the country although neither were totally successful in their goal of pro wrestling having just one recognized world heavyweight champion and the NWA completely controlling wrestling.

None of that matters today except the name still exists in a legal fashion. The last champion, and last controversy took place about one year ago. At the time, the NWA champion, one of two so-called world title belts recognized by WCW, was Ric Flair, who was scheduled to lose the title to Rick Rude at the Beach Blast PPV. NWA bylaws stipulate that the title can only change hands when given approval from the NWA board of governors, which didn't want to go long with WCW's wishes in approving the change. A court fight ensued prior to the Flair-Rude match, with the NWA asking in order to approve the switch to Rude, wanting the right to bring Rude in on another member promoter's show and lose the NWA title and belt to a wrestler of their choice, since the member promoters wanted the right to book Flair, who they perceived as a better draw, as champion to work their cards as would be their right under NWA bylaws. Ultimately, WCW prevailed in a court fight with the NWA so Rude didn't have to drop the title to a wrestler of the NWA board's choosing in the ring. When Seiji Sakaguchi was President of the NWA, after New Japan decided not to use or recognize the NWA belt after Keiji Muto lost the title to Barry Windham in early 1993 because of problems it was having working with WCW at the time, he signed over the rights to the title and belt to WCW, something unknown even to the NWA's own lawyer, Bob Trobich, which they didn't find out until they were in court. WCW ultimately dropped the NWA name from Rude's championship belt, and for a week, even dropped recognition of the belt before re-naming it the International world belt and dropping the NWA name.

Soon thereafter, Trobich attempted to remake the NWA and at a five-person convention in Las Vegas, created a new board, which would have control of the championship, made up of Steve Rickard of New Zealand, Dennis Coraluzzo and Crockett. At the time the only one of the three actually promoting was Coraluzzo, on a small-time basis mainly in New Jersey. Crockett has since promoted several shows this year and is attempting to put together a promotion in the Southeast. Gordon later joined the NWA but wasn't made a member of the board. An attempt by Jim Cornette to join was tabled because Crockett (who ironically today is working with Cornette) and Rickard felt it would be inappropriate for the manager of the WWF champion to be a member of the NWA since part of its bylaws had always been that its members would recognize no

other wrestler as world heavyweight champion except the NWA champion.

Sound confusing and irrelevant to today's wrestling? It gets better. Gordon, working with Crockett's blessing and in fact claiming Crockett himself requested it, decided to run a tournament to create an NWA world heavyweight champion, reviving the title once again. Gordon said he was under the impression it was approval given by the board when Crockett made the suggestion to him. Others claim Gordon never sought out approval from the NWA board which controls the title before making the announcement. Either way, NWA sources tell us as of press time, Gordon doesn't have approval to create an NWA heavyweight champion. After making the announcement, Gordon did attempt to make contact with Coraluzzo, both of whom consider the other as rivals because of the close proximity in which each runs indie shows. The approval of Coraluzzo and Crockett would give Gordon the majority needed to approve his tournament and his champion.

As of press time, Coraluzzo was against giving the tournament approval, but was willing to give in provided a contract is drawn up giving the other promoters dates on the champion, putting it in writing that the champion would agree to lose the belt in the middle of the ring when the board decides to make a change, and also wanting a voice in who would be made champion as his position on the so-called board gives him the power to do. As it stands, the tournament winner seems to be in the hands of Gordon and booker Paul E. Dangerously, although Crockett apparently has had input. Whomever the decision has been made to give it to right now, and there is someone picked, isn't of Coraluzzo's choosing. Rickard stated he wanted the matter discussed at the NWA convention, planned for mid-September, before he'd approve anything, which was Coraluzzo's back-up position. Crockett was unavailable to be reached at press time but those close to the situation believe he still wants Gordon to hold a tournament now and crown a champion although nobody could say they knew for sure, and that Crockett wanted the tournament winner to then come down either late this year or early next year to a Crockett show in his proposed new territory and drop the strap, which Crockett would then gain control of, like he had control of it for most of the 1980s when Ric Flair held the title. Of course the other NWA members are against one promoter holding complete control of the title. Gordon is still planning the tournament, which by the bylaws, without either Rickard or Coraluzzo's permission, he should have no right to do. Gordon claimed he's now getting the feeling he's being set-up, but that he's not going to be a party in what he called gamesmanship going around and said that he hasn't heard anything negative from anyone either representing the NWA or on the NWA board. He said he's going to run the tournament and crown a champion no matter what, and said that champion will be made available to Crockett or any other NWA promoter that wants dates on him. He's claiming a precedent was set a few weeks back when Crockett crowned his own NWA women's champ and then changed the title as well without either seeking approval of the board or informing any of the other member promoters of his plans. For whatever this is worth, based on the past, the NWA men's world heavyweight belt has been the only one under those restrictions because it was the one that was the key to the organization whereas so-called tag champs, women's champs, and lighter weight champs were always regional belts not defended on a worldwide basis. In fact, the middleweight and light heavyweight titles (which are still around with EMLL in Mexico) using the NWA name have remained in existence, probably without the knowledge of whatever else consisted of

the NWA. Gordon also noted that he's the only NWA affiliated promoter that has a television show that is currently airing.

So even if Gordon doesn't get approval before tournament time, he's already said he's going to run the tournament and use the name anyway.

A ten-man single elimination tournament is at press time scheduled to include Shane Douglas, Too Cold Scorpio, Tazmaniac, 911, Dean Malenko, Chris Benoit, Osamu Nishimura and three others to be announced, one of whom negotiations are going on to be Road Warrior Hawk but he wasn't officially confirmed at press time.

The NWA legally could attempt to get a restraining order against the tournament and it is a trademarked name. Gordon appears to be banking that this won't happen, and he's probably correct. The NWA board already owes \$5,000 in legal fees from its losing case last year with WCW that it hasn't paid, and nobody seems to want to ante up the money to keep control of the name. By allowing the tournament to continue without approval and without a legal fight, the board is giving up its power over the name, and hence, years after it was the dominant name in wrestling, and after it truly no longer existed, the final burial of the NWA world heavyweight championship as it once existed, is scheduled to take place at the tournament billed to be its resurrection.

AUGUST 22, 1994

They had another chair-a-mania show on 8/13 at the ECW Arena which was jam-packed. Having been in that building I don't see how anymore than 950 could fit in there although those reporting live said there were every bit of 950, if not substantially more. After a strong undercard, the Terry Funk vs. Cactus Jack main event only went 5:00 before Public Enemy attacked Funk and laid him out, but Jack refused to pin Funk and instead fought with Funk in battling Public Enemy. Fans live groaned when Enemy made the attack so shortly into the match (apparently the show was running late and they had to finish on time because the arena has midnight Bingo) and also because they saw the non-finish and angle taking the place of what on paper would have been a classic brawl. It turned out "okay" because with the crowd unhappy, Funk once again called for the fans to throw chairs and reportedly this time they threw tons more chairs than even last month (estimates at between 100 and 200 chairs thrown by fans into the ring burying Public Enemy under a sea of chairs). Even though some thought it saved the show, promoter Tod Gordon was furious about the chair throwing because of the potential for injury to a fan or a wrestler from a bad throw. Gordon estimated double the number of chairs were thrown than at the 7/16 show and said it would never be allowed to happen again, and was furious at Funk for calling for the fans to repeat the wild and dangerous scene. Gordon made. People were upset largely by the main event's brevity and lack of finish, but were raving about the quadruple juice bloodbath with Public Enemy beating Axl & Ian Rotten to keep the ECW tag titles and a high-flying spectacular where Sabu pinned Too Cold Scorpio underneath. Scorpio was heavily booed when he came out since Sabu is the most popular wrestler in the promotion, but he was so impressive with hot moves that the crowd gave Scorpio a standing ovation and chanted his name after losing. Manager Jason (Jason Knight) captured the TV title from Mikey Whippreck doing the loser gimmick. Whippreck actually had a match almost won (his gimmick is he gets destroyed the entire match and wins usually via a fluke DQ) with Jason

covered but mistook the ref hitting the mat the first time as his getting into position to count the pin rather than the first count, thus got up and celebrated after an official two count. The Pit Bulls then attacked Whippreck and crotched him on the post and Jason pinned him to win the title.

Johnny Grunge of Public Enemy needed 12 stitches in his match with the Rottens but before going to the hospital came out for the run-in in the main event, which sets up the 8/27 Public Enemy vs. Funk & Jack match headlining the NWA tournament show.

After 911 pinned Mr. Hughes with a choke slam, valet Angel, with a neck brace on from last month's choke slam by 911, got in the ring and 911 choke slammed her twice and she did a stretcher job.

AUGUST 29, 1994

The tournament to recreate a National Wrestling Alliance world heavyweight champion scheduled for 8/27 in Philadelphia at the ECW Arena seems at press time to have been given official NWA sanction.

After a week of haggling back-and-forth, it appeared the tournament would go on despite not being approved by the NWA board which hold the decision-making power for the dormant title and dormant organization. According to ECW promoter Tod Gordon, on 8/22, he had reached an agreement with Dennis Coraluzzo, who would appear at his show, which, along with Jim Crockett, would give him the two necessary votes out of the three board members to sanction the tournament to recreate the championship with the most wrestling history behind it. While Jim Crockett isn't expected at his show, earlier in the week Crockett had made it apparent that he was supporting Gordon's tournament. Coraluzzo's support apparently came from a discussion with NWA legal adviser Bob Trobich who told him that the public haggling and articles in last week's Observer and Torch made the organization look bad and they should be united in regard to the tournament. The more pragmatic idea is that since they weren't financially prepared to go to court to enforce their power over the name if they wanted to block things, Gordon was going to do the tournament anyway so they might as well go along with it.

It had appeared for most of the week that Coraluzzo and the remaining board member, Steve Rickard of New Zealand, were against Gordon holding the tournament. Rickard wanted to wait until after the NWA convention, scheduled for 9/15 in Atlantic City, before agreeing to a new champion although reportedly after the situation was reported last week, he was for creating a champion and going along with the tournament because of the feeling the publicity made the organization look bad. Coraluzzo, who has been pushing to get SMW, AAA and IWC to join to make it an internationally credible organization, was pushing for a different wrestler, Chris Benoit, to win the tournament than Gordon had picked and Crockett wanted. As of Friday, it appeared the sides had reached an impasse largely over the issue of who would win the tournament. In addition, there was a disagreement because Coraluzzo wanted promoters using the champion to have to give the champion a \$500 per appearance guarantee to give the title prestige and make sure larger groups wouldn't be able to as easily sign away the champion. He also wanted a contract giving all member promoters rights to use the champion and making sure the board was legally protected in the instance the

champion refused to lose the title when requested. Reportedly there was a verbal promise made that would be put into writing this week before the tournament that the eventual winner would drop the title to Benoit, although Gordon's booker, Paul Heyman reportedly told Coraluzzo on 8/22 they'd "steal" Benoit as they had Sabu and Terry Funk, whom Coraluzzo had been using and don't work dates in the area for him anymore.

Crockett on Friday attempted to convince Coraluzzo to agree to Gordon's choice in the tournament rather than Benoit, making a scary statement that he had never even heard of Benoit, and that how could Coraluzzo know if the guy had the work ethic necessary to be champion. While Benoit is not a star in the United States and is lacking in some aspects such as facial expressions and interview ability, his work ethic is far beyond question. The idea that Crockett could claim to have never heard of him or have no knowledge of his work ethic shows at best analysis for Crockett to be a liar, which is more likely not the case. At worst, which unfortunately is the more likely alternative, that statement shows just how out of touch Crockett has become to the business and the wrestling talent of today which is scary for someone who is trying to open a new territory and compete in an exceedingly difficult business in the year 1994. We don't know at press time how that impasse was broken although imagine it will become obvious at the show.

The single elimination tournament bracketing at press time was set for a Shane Douglas vs. Tazmaniac, Dean Malenko vs. Osamu Nishimura, Benoit vs. Too Cold Scorpio and 911 vs. an as yet unnamed opponent in the first round with the winners of the first two matches and second two matches meeting in the semifinals.

Shane Douglas did a promo for the NWA tournament that aired on 8/16 in which he spent most of his promo making some bitter remarks about Ric Flair (and some about Hulk Hogan as well) including challenging him to a shoot, which were his words. I understand the idea that by Douglas continually doing interviews placing himself in the company of Flair, Hulk Hogan and Bret Hart that the idea is to put himself in the category of them. The argument against it is you don't want to give publicity to competitors, but in the case of ECW, every fan watching is aware of those three to begin with and Douglas' interviews in most cases probably cause more the former than the latter. However, there also comes a point where you are using your television promotional time to build fans up to make them want to see a match (in this case Douglas vs. Flair) that you aren't going to be able to deliver and it takes the focus away from selling your own product. If 8/27 sells out, then that's all academic.

9/23 in Tampa is Sabu vs. Terry Funk, Douglas vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy in a falls count anywhere match, 911 vs. Mr. Hughes and Dory Funk vs. Pat Tanaka. 9/24 in Ocala, FL has Sabu vs. Scorpio, Douglas vs. Tazmaniac, Bruise Brothers vs. Public Enemy, 911 vs. Hughes and Dory Funk vs. Tanaka.

Road Warrior Hawk nixed appearing in the 8/27 tournament.

SEPTEMBER 5, 1994

In what will go down as one of the more public double-crosses in a business known for lying and double-crossing, Tod Gordon's Eastern Championship Wrestling after holding the NWA tournament on 8/27 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia,

publicly trashed the belt and the promotion on its television show three nights later announced it was quitting the fledgling organization.

The plan to have ECW champion Shane Douglas win the tournament, then say the belt was worthless and throw it on the ground, was several weeks in the making and had a dual purpose. It was both a way to giving Douglas credibility as more than a local champion as ECW changed its name from being Eastern Championship Wrestling to Extreme Championship Wrestling and Douglas' championship of the promotion will now be called "ECW World heavyweight champion" and attempts to expand outside the Philadelphia area; and to publicly double-cross the NWA, particularly Dennis Coraluzzo and possibly Jim Crockett, and give the group the renegade promotion reputation it is building on. With the in-your-face mindset of its ECW arena core audience, when Douglas said how the NWA title had meant nothing in seven years, that the organization was dead and belt was worthless and the only belt that meant anything to him was the ECW belt, saying he would never want a championship that Ric Flair held, it got over surprisingly well. There were even chants of "Flair is dead" as Douglas made his speech. Douglas did the speech while a stunned Coraluzzo looked on. Even after the double-cross, ECW officials, Paul E. Dangerously in particular, tried to placate Coraluzzo telling him it was only an angle to get heat on Douglas, but that turned out to be just another in a string of lies when the reality was obvious on television three nights later that it was a public statement which did get over with the ECW core audience, which heavily booed Coraluzzo from the moment he came into the ring as an NWA rep.

During the week, Gordon had received approval from the NWA board by getting Coraluzzo's swing vote by promising that Douglas would lose the title to Chris Benoit, which both Coraluzzo and NWA attorney Bob Trobich were in favor of making the champion. That's just another agreement that won't be lived up to. ECW created its bracketing so that Benoit, who it appeared the NWA would make champion later in the year if the organization ever gets past being a paper organization stage, would lose in the tournament's first round to Too Cold Scorpio. Coraluzzo felt that didn't matter that Benoit lost in the first round since it he felt Benoit showed himself to be the best wrestler in the tournament, a view shared by most who called in who said the Benoit-Scorpio match (rated at ***1/4) stole what everyone said was an overall great wrestling show.

Douglas defeated Scorpio in the tournament finals in about 12:00 of a ***1/4 match when Scorpio missed a splash off the top rope and Douglas pinned him with a belly-to-belly. As Coraluzzo presented the new NWA title belt, Douglas started a long speech talking about the history of the title and names like Lou Thesz, Buddy Rogers and The Funks. But as the speech went on, he came to the name Flair and said how the belt was part of the past and that he didn't want to resurrect something that was dead. He said ECW was leaving the past behind and that he didn't want a belt that hasn't meant s--- in seven years.

Before going to the ring, Coraluzzo got Douglas to sign a contract as NWA champion which stipulated that he agreed to drop the title when it was requested by a majority vote of the NWA board, via either pinfall or submission. The contract stipulated a \$500 per appearance guarantee for any title defense, plus air transportation and hotel whenever he's booked more than 200 miles from his hometown (Pittsburgh in this case). The contract stipulated that any NWA promoters requesting dates on him must give him 45 days notice. If

Douglas doesn't abide by the contract, as he apparently won't be doing, then the NWA can strip him of the title. There is no word on the reaction of the rest of the NWA board, although Coraluzzo himself wants to hold a tournament to crown Benoit in November.

Although both Coraluzzo and Trobich were mad, more at Gordon than Paul E. Dangerously, who no doubt masterminded most if not all of what happened, Crockett, according to those who have spoken with him since the incident, seemed unconcerned about it. Trobich, who didn't find out about what happened until 8/30, was heavily critical of Gordon saying he didn't deal with them in good faith, although said he really didn't see it as being significant because the only people he said who would know about it are the 850 fans in the building and those who read about it in the Observer and Torch. "In wrestling you learn who you can trust and who you can't," he said. There are a lot more people on one list than the other." He said he was disappointed because in his phone conversations with Gordon he thought he was a straight-shooter and he felt they had a very cordial relationship, and Trobich went to bat for Gordon telling Coraluzzo and Steve Rickard (the other NWA board member) it was a good idea to support the tournament.

The tournament opened with Dean Malenko making Osamu Nishimura submit to the boston crab in a **1/4 match; 911 then choke slammed mystery opponent Doink the Clown (Matt Osborne) four times and pinned him in less than 1:00 (1/4*) which popped the full house of 850 since things like wrestlers dressed up as clowns are one of the reasons that audience has rejected WWF and WCW. Douglas pinned Tazmaniac (**) and Scorpio pinned Benoit (****1/4). Second round saw Douglas pin Malenko (**3/4) and Scorpio beat 911 via count out (*). In the latter, Doink came out and attacked 911's manager Paul E. Dangerously. However Doink unmasked, revealing Douglas. At this point, Osborne, who will be billed under his wrestling name Matt Borne, came out with a little bit of clown make-up on but out of the get-up and hit 911 with a chair to cause him to lose.

The only non-tournament match saw Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck win the ECW tag titles beating Public Enemy. Whippreck replaced Terry Funk who called earlier in the day saying he missed his flight out. Funk & Jack were scheduled to win the belts and start a three-month long program. It was announced that Funk wouldn't be there and refunds were offered at the start of the show. Jack dragged Whippreck, the perennial loser who somehow always wins, out as his partner. Rocko Rock (Ted Petty) was on the top rope ready to jump on Whippreck when a nearly KO'd Jack collapsed and hit the ropes, causing Rock to crotch himself and fall into the ring and Whippreck got the arm over his chest for the upset win (**1/2). At press time it isn't known if Funk will be returning to ECW.

Next ECW Arena show will be 9/17 with Shane Douglas defending the ECW World title against Too Cold Scorpio, Sabu (who was in FMW this past week which is why he wasn't booked in the tournament) vs. Chris Benoit, Sandman vs. Tommy Dreamer in an I Quit match and probably Dean Malenko vs. Tazmaniac.

Malenko is doing a gimmick as Dean "The Shooter" Malenko almost as a 5-7 Big Bubba Rogers, doing the bodyguard role for Jason. In Jason's TV title defenses at the tapings on 8/28, as the ref was distracted, Malenko did quick UWF-style

kneelocks or armbars on Jason's foes allowing Jason to beat them.

Jason & Chad Austin turned on Rockin Rebel to set up Jason vs. Rebel grudge match where Malenko used the Fujiwara armbar on Rebel. Tazmaniac wound up with a confrontation with Malenko where they kept reversing each other's holds.

Dory Funk is promoting a show 9/24 in Ocala, FL headlined by Sabu vs. Scorpio, Dory Funk vs. Pat Tanaka with the president of the Central Florida Community College (where the show is taking place) as guest referee. They are also honoring Dory Funk Sr. and Duke Keomuka (Tanaka's father) at the show, plus 911 vs. Mr. Hughes, Douglas vs. Tazmaniac, Public Enemy vs. Bruiser Brothers in a Falls count anywhere, Sandman vs. tommy Dreamer and Phi Delta Slam vs. Axl & Ian Rotten and a Battle Royal.

Highlight of the taping saw Rocko Rock put Don E. Allen prone on top of two tables, one on top of the other, and came off the top ropes with a plancha with both going through both tables.

SEPTEMBER 12, 1994

The situation regarding Tod Gordon's NWA heavyweight title tournament on 8/27 in Philadelphia only heated up this past week. As expected, on its television show that aired 8/30, ECW changed its name to Extreme Championship Wrestling and will recognize Shane Douglas as the ECW world heavyweight champion. Based on the double-cross, the NWA, whatever currently that entails, released a statement saying they are declaring the tournament null and void and stripping Douglas not only of the title, but of any recognition as a former NWA champion.

It gets even funnier. On Sunday, both Douglas and ECW booker Paul E. Dangerously were scheduled to appear both on John Arezzi and Mike Tenay's radio shows. On both shows, Douglas stated the idea to throw the NWA belt and proclaim the ECW belt as the meaningful one came to him in the ring spontaneously that night and the idea was his and his alone. He categorically denied any premeditation on the part of him or the promotion in what happened. Of course, that wasn't the case, but that's where the story gets stranger.

Dangerously, having no knowledge of what Douglas had either already said or was going to say, then came on Arezzi's show and said the idea was planned well in advance and said it was a double-cross, but they had their reasons for doing it, and said he'd accept whatever heat came down because of that decision. Dangerously then missed Tenay's show, calling just after the show went off the air.

Arezzi also booked Dennis Coraluzzo as a guest, who said that both Douglas and Dangerously were liars, which, by their own contradictions of the same story, it did come off that at least one of them was. Coraluzzo, who said the NWA will hold a tournament in November, wasn't booked on the Tenay show, called the show as a caller and said pretty much the same thing.

Gordon's explanation of what happened was that he was called by Jim Crockett and asked to do the tournament. He said he understood the idea was to have Douglas (who would win the tournament) drop the title to one of Crockett's guys and the NWA champion would be Crockett's company champion.

Gordon said he understood the situation, not that he liked it, but was irked when Crockett said the ECW champion could be like the old Mid-Atlantic champion, as a stepping-stone title for the big belt and he didn't want his champion being regarded as simply a stepping-stone. He said the next thing he heard was reading either the Torch or Observer which said he didn't have the right to hold the tournament. He said he thought Crockett had cleared everything up ahead of time before asking him to run the tournament. He admitted telling NWA attorney Bob Trobich that since he had already announced the tournament, he was going to do it, but he wanted to make peace with everyone. He claimed he then made peace with Coraluzzo and then read about Chris Benoit's name in the Observer and got mad and decided he wasn't going to do business with any of these people. He said they had Coraluzzo do the interview after Douglas threw down the belt so he could escape with some dignity.

Coraluzzo's side is that when he was contacted about the tournament, since they needed either his or Steve Rickard's approval, Gordon first told him in order to get his approval, he could pick the winner. Coraluzzo said he and Rickard decided upon Benoit because they felt he was the biggest international star in the field and because he worked all over the world, he could take the belt all over the world and make it a meaningful world title, although Crockett still wanted Douglas as champion claiming to have never heard of Benoit and questioned whether he had the right work ethic to be a world champion. According to Coraluzzo, Gordon agreed to let Benoit win instead of Douglas, but then told him the next day that they had promised it to Douglas but that if he approved of the tournament, that in return Douglas would drop the title to Benoit at the television tapings the next afternoon. At that point Coraluzzo said he knew a double-cross was coming but he wanted to be a team player and was advised by Trobich the best thing to do was to attend the show.

But despite what was said by others who possibly didn't even know themselves, Dangerously had planned the scenario before any of the controversy about the tournament had even gone public. Dangerously wasn't particularly happy about the crossed signals between himself and Douglas which came off so bad the following Sunday, calling it a WCW-like mistake but saying he's happy only that it took place before the group had more national exposure where it could have come off as more embarrassing. Dangerously said Douglas did the interviews as the character Shane Douglas rather than as Troy Martin.

"In the practical sense of the word, it was a double-cross. It was premeditated, planned in advance. I can give you a million reasons why Coraluzzo had it coming. We wanted to put the credibility of the history of the NWA title into our title. I'm not Bill Watts, so I'm not going to say that justifies the tactics. I can tell you Coraluzzo brought it on himself. After a year, he kept f---ing with our business. What we did was questionable but I think it was justified. But it was a classic wrestling promoter double-cross move. It taught Coraluzzo a lesson. Crockett's done nothing to help that organization. When you do (things like) it, you have to take the criticism because it was an unethical move."

This story isn't completely over. While this likely is unrelated, Terry Funk no-showed the card and nobody knows what his future plans are regarding ECW. Funk was the foundation of the cult success of the promotion, since Funk was the lone national headliner there from the start of this run (Jimmy Snuka was a major star and a far bigger name in his prime in Philadelphia, but he was far enough past his prime that ECW

couldn't use him as a headliner or to transfer his credibility get newer headliners over; whereas Funk gave incredible performances more often than not which got the newer faces over to the point they are now drawing cards themselves) and his credibility as a legit superstar gave credibility to Sabu, Douglas and Public Enemy, who are now the group's biggest draws, because he put all of them over. In addition, there are a lot of rumors that Coraluzzo and another major promoter are considering running competition in Philadelphia against Gordon as retaliation. If they are doing it because they believe it's a viable business move, that's one thing, but to do so as a retaliation move would be a mistake, even if they believe ethically they are on the right side of the fence when it comes to this controversy. Gordon's regular crowd isn't going to attend any other group that would try a head-to-head meeting no matter how many big-name stars are brought in and whatever ethical questions there are regarding what happened won't even be taken into consideration by that audience.

ECW moved its 9/17 ECW Arena show in Philadelphia to 10/1 for a number of reasons. The main reason is the building was scheduled for repairs that week, but it was a blessing in disguise because Public Enemy and Cactus Jack would be unavailable due to other commitments. In addition, the semi-main on the show, Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, would have to have been changed since Benoit was booked for New Japan that day. All three matches previously announced for 9/17 (Shane Douglas defending against Too Cold Scorpio, Benoit vs. Sabu and Sandman vs. Tommy Dreamer in an I Quit match) will take place on 10/1. They also have a show booked for 9/30 at the Hamburg Arena. People have been raving about the ECW television show that aired on 9/30, which featured a tournament rundown and Douglas' interview. Douglas right now ranks right with Jake Roberts and Ric Flair as the top three interviews in the business.

ECW's relationship as far as talent exchanges with WCW appears over. Tod Gordon tried to get Ron Simmons to replace Terry Funk on the Tampa show, but WCW wouldn't deal with him claiming that by running in Florida, ECW had invaded their territory.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1994

Booker Paul E. Dangerously, commenting on the story in the Observer two weeks ago about the NWA tournament said that the one point incorrect is in regard to the treatment of Chris Benoit. Dangerously said that Benoit losing in the first round had nothing to do with Dennis Coraluzzo wanting to make him NWA champion down the line. He said that the way the finish was done, which was Benoit doing a superplex standing on the top rope and a double cradle coming off it (similar but not identical to the Dynamite Kid vs. Randy Savage finish at the 1985 Wrestling Classic PPV show) with Benoit getting pinned was done to protect Benoit while beating him because they wanted Scorpio in the finals.

9/30 in Hershey, PA will be headlined by Sabu vs. Cactus Jack, 911 vs. Mr. Hughes, Chris Benoit vs. Tazmaniac and more.

Some of the inside TV commentary by Joey Styles (as told to him by Dangerously) is hilarious. When 911 was destroying Doink the Osbourne, Styles said "One clown down, Bischoff and McMahon to follow." When Tommy Dreamer was screwed out of a match by Sandman and commissioner Tod Gordon

came out, he said that "We have a real justice system in ECW. This isn't Long Island."

TV didn't air this past week.

SEPTEMBER 26, 1994

Too Cold Scorpio now working in Europe and had to pull out of U.S. indie dates including Tod Gordon's ECW shows in Florida this coming weekend. The ECW television show in Philadelphia didn't air on 9/13 which would be the second straight Tuesday the show didn't air, due to a screw-up within the station about how the tape was labeled. They wound up airing the show on 9/15 instead, although those in the company were very upset because of the fear fans seeing the show not air two straight weeks might jump to the conclusion it was in trouble. Speaking of ECW, which for a small promotion with no major television is causing major waves, the ICW (formerly IWCCW) on its television show this past weekend spent 5:00 burying ECW talking about the NWA tournament and saying numerous derogatory things about the company.

OCTOBER 3, 1994

The first out-of-the-area tour took place over the weekend and would have to be classified as a mixed bag. Fan response to the shows 9/23 in Tampa and 9/24 in Ocala was excellent, but Tampa only drew 338 and Ocala just over 600. The Ocala crowd is decent for a city that size, in fact, good considering it was an indie show, but at some point you'd think profit has to enter into the equation. But as mentioned, those who were there raved about both shows. Tampa was more of a typical ECW show with fans being more hardcore and into the television, for instance, chanting "Dick Flair" as Shane Douglas, etc. Ron Simmons replaced Too Cold Scorpio (who was in Germany working for CWA for a match for their Intercontinental title against David Finlay although to this group's credit they made the announcement before the show and offered refunds) and wasn't the right opponent for Sabu, plus Simmons at first had qualms about putting Sabu over, but he did put Sabu over both nights. In Tampa, Sabu did a legdrop onto Simmons on a table and landed with his butt flush in Simmons' face and busted up Simmons' mouth. The Public Enemy-Bruise Brothers match ended up with all four bleeding, brawling all over the building and destroying chairs and everything else including Johnny Grunge getting his head put through the glass protecting a fire extinguisher and fans at the end of the show chanted "ECW." In Ocala, the wrestlers were told specifically there could be no brawling outside the barriers so it was more of a traditional style wrestling show although I'm told it was actually even better than Tampa. The only negative is that Ocala had been heavily promoted around the show being a memorial for famous fighting fathers, in particular Dory Funk Sr. and Duke Keomuka, however Duke's son Pat Tanaka arrived late at the building so Dory Funk had to wrestle Mr. Hughes instead.

ECW indicated they'd return to Florida in November.

OCTOBER 10, 1994

They had another packed house of 850 and a typical hot show on 10/1 at the ECW Arena. In the key matches, Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck retained the ECW tag team titles beating Public Enemy in a brawl all over the building match; Chris Benoit upset Sabu when the referee stopped the match

because Sabu was coughing up blood (that was the finish planned although Sabu was bandaged up because he legit cracked his ribs the previous night in Hamburg, PA doing an Asai-moonsault on Cactus Jack but in doing the move his ribs cracked on the guard rail; he had also injured one rib a week earlier in one of the matches with Ron Simmons); Shane Douglas retained the ECW title pinning Too Cold Scorpio due to outside interference from Borne Again (Matt Osborne) who put the Doink mask on Scorpio after the match as he had done the previous night to start a feud between the two; and Jason retained the TV title beating Hack Myers due to outside help from Dean Malenko who did a quick shoot move on Myers. 911 did his obligatory choke-slam spot on the card as he ran in 5:00 into a match between Rockin Rebel and Steve Richards and choke-slammed both and referee John "Pee Wee" Moore. After Malenko won a handicap match, he had a 90 second square-off with Tazmaniac with the two exchanging suplexes which presumably will build up for singles matches between the two.

The most commotion on the show involved an angle with Sandman vs. Tommy Dreamer in an I Quit match. Sandman had Dreamer destroyed, then lit up a cigarette, but Dreamer made a comeback and wound up burning the cigarette in Sandman's eye to win. They did a major commotion for television backstage where everyone was screaming how Sandman could lose his eyesight, and in fact, it continued even when cameras weren't around and everyone was told the injury was legit (I don't know one way or another). Sandman was then carried out threw the crowd going out the front door with a towel around his face and the towel was drenched in blood, although in the ring there actually wasn't any blood.

Next ECW Arena show is 11/5, but no word on the show at press time.

The TV tapings on 9/30 in Hamburg, PA drew 420 fans. Since the ECW TV doesn't air in the market, at the beginning the crowd didn't know what to make of some of the characters and there was a lot of silence except for the crowd buzzing at the hot moves, but eventually they got into the four-and-a-half hour long show. Among the highlights saw Jason keep the TV title beating Mikey Whippreck when Public Enemy ran in attacking Whippreck with baseball bats; During a tag match with jobbers Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff vs. Steve Richards & Chris Canyon, 911 did a run-in and choke-slammed all four men, then choke-slammed ref Moore twice more; J.T. Smith pinned Sandman but after the match Sandman destroyed Smith using the kendo stick; Ray Odyssey suffered a legit concussion when Chris Benoit used a dragon suplex on him; Benoit and Tazmaniac did a 10:00 draw; Too Cold Scorpio beat Borne Again (Matt Osborne doing a half-clown, half-wrestler gimmick) via DQ when Mr. Hughes interfered. After the match the two doubled on Scorpio and Borne put the Doink headgear on Scorpio and grabbed the house mic and called him Scorpiodoink; Public Enemy beat Bad Breed in a brutal baseball bat match; 911 pinned Mr. Hughes in a few seconds with the choke slam, although it appeared there were problems with Hughes since he kicked out before the three even though he wasn't supposed to and the ref counted it anyway. Main event was Sabu vs. Cactus Jack. Sabu cracked or bruised his ribs on the guard rail doing the Asai-moonsault about 1:00 in. Everyone at ringside panicked since it was obvious Sabu had hurt himself seriously this time. Cactus and 911 began brawling to distract the fans. About 4:00 later of them stalling, Sabu and Jack started working together and it appeared they wanted to go right to the finish since Sabu was hurt, but Sabu refused and they went and did all their crazy spots. The finish

was really sick. Sabu was supposed to break a non-gimmicked bottle over Jack's head, but it took seven tries before the bottle would finally break, at which point Sabu did his split-legged moonsault for the pin.

This group's start on Sunshine Network (Florida basic cable sports station) is set for 10/6.

Ron Simmons appearances in Florida had nothing to do with any negotiated settlement with WCW. Simmons was supposed to work the TV this weekend as well but didn't. Shane Douglas also no-showed the television I believe due to transportation problems.

Next TV taping is 11/4 in Hamburg, PA, plus shows 11/17 in Jim Thorpe, PA and 11/18 in Norristown, PA.

There's a lot of talk that Sabu was offered a big money deal to stay with this group in 1995. He had talked of going to WWF although of late he'd been talking down that idea.

OCTOBER 17, 1994

The debut tape didn't air on the Sunshine Network this week due to a problem with the Sandman situation that was the basis of much of the television show. That was cleared up after the fact and the original show will air this week, with a few added bleeps put in over Woman's voice in the aftermath of the Sandman-Dreamer match.

The network was flooded with phone calls so took it as a great sign of interest since the show had never even aired yet, but had been publicized as debuting in the Miami Herald.

Next ECW Arena show is 11/5 with Public Enemy vs. Mikey Whippreck & Cactus Jack in a baseball bat match (called Brawl Game) on top, Shane Douglas probably defending the title against Ron Simmons (that wasn't confirmed), Borne Again vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Sabu vs. Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko vs. Tazmaniac, Tommy Dreamer (the angle is Dreamer is devoting his career to wrestling for Sandman who he injured at the last show because he feels so bad about what happened) vs. Tommy Cairo, Sandman's farewell and Woman's introduction of her new protege already announced.

Rockin Rebel was fired on 10/4 for not wanting to do a clean finish.

The Cactus Jack vs. Sabu match from Hamburg, PA where Sabu cracked his ribs will air on television on 10/18 along with clips of the Sabu vs. Benoit.

OCTOBER 24, 1994

They've decided to shoot several major angles on the 11/5 ECW Arena show to set up a return date on 11/19 and try and book a blow-out show to go head-to-head with rival Dennis Coraluzzo's SMW show and NWA title tournament across the river in Cherry Hill, NJ that same night. For whatever this is worth, ECW is now adding SMW to its list of enemy promotions for working the shows in the Philadelphia area next month.

The only show of the past week was in Harrisburg, PA on 10/15 before 200 fans, a poor crowd that can be partly

attributed to being the day before the WWF's A-team show in Hershey.

Sabu appeared in tremendous pain but still did all his spots against J.T. Smith. They shot an angle to set up a Shane Douglas-Ron Simmons feud over the ECW title (the idea is to gain credibility for it as a world title by beating a former recognized world champion). Douglas retained the title beating Tazmaniac when Mr. Hughes hit the ring attacking Tazmaniac. Simmons came out but Douglas tried to high-five him but Simmons instead attacked Douglas. The two had an argument back-and-forth with Douglas calling Simmons a has-been.

Tommy Cairo will return as a heel laughing about Sandman's injury and starting a feud with Tommy Dreamer.

OCTOBER 31, 1994

Only show this weekend was 10/22 at Pulsations Night Club in a Philadelphia suburb with Public Enemy and Pit Bulls tearing up the joint. Sabu suffered one broken and one dislocated finger in his main event match which was Sabu & 911 vs. Mr. Hughes & Shane Douglas. Sabu went for a moonsault outside the ring onto a table and as he was in mid-air, the table popped up and his hand crashed into it as the table moved when it was too late to adjust the flight. The guy is a real talent but it's going to be a miracle if he can last and his style isn't so much something with a high injury risk as much as an injury certainty. Don't expect him to miss any dates, however. Since they went right to the finish, after the match Douglas grabbed the house mic and got on the case of a few pro-Flair fans saying something like Flair could kick his posterior, and Douglas cracked back something to the effect of he isn't going to get the chance because he's the one doing the job tomorrow night.

The Cactus Jack/Sabu match from Harrisburg, PA where Sabu cracked two ribs when he moonsaulted the guard rail and where Jack took the beer bottle to the head seven times aired on television this past week and people are saying it was pretty shocking.

Speaking of Cactus Jack, he's opened a side business selling leather biker jackets and vests. For a catalogue send to Cactus Jackets, 4290 Bells Ferry Rd. #106566, Kennesaw, GA 30144 and he's offering a 10% discount if you write and say you're an Observer reader.

NOVEMBER 7, 1994

Correction from last week. The crowd at Pulsation's Night Club near Philadelphia listed at 175 was actually 231.

Caught the Cactus Jack-Sabu match from Hamburg, PA where Sabu cracked his ribs and later, after seven tries, broke a beer bottle on Cactus' head. It was a unique match in that guys just can't work matches like that for very long and hope to remain in one piece. Of course, neither of these guys is anywhere near in one piece. The work itself isn't smooth, but it is brutal beyond belief. After cracking his ribs on the guard rail doing an Asai-moonsault, Sabu got up and did one crazy spot after another including a second Asai-moonsault on Jack who was prone on a table outside the ring, going through the table.

A couple of WCW guys will appear on the 11/19 show as part of the settlement in ECW's threat to sue WCW over using "When World's Collide" as the title for the PPV this week.

Expect angles with WCW wrestlers to be shot at the 11/5 show. Word we get is that the 11/19 show will be the end of any relationship between the two groups as ECW has been trying to put together a Sabu vs. Brian Pillman match or a tag match with them on opposite sides and WCW turned down two requests for Pillman saying that no WCW wrestler would be made available to them except the guys in the agreed upon settlement and after the settlement, relations were done. Speaking of Sabu, Tod Gordon said he hasn't offered Sabu a contract. Sabu is expected to make some kind of a play between now and the end of the year. He's been using going to Titan in January as leverage and now he has to either make the decision to go, accept the way things are, or change the way things are.

John Arezzi is doing a bus trip from New York to the 11/19 ECW show.

NOVEMBER 14, 1994

After a lot of scary moments, the latest of what has become far too frequent injuries for wrestling craziest daredevil Sabu, turned out to be not as serious as it originally appeared. Sabu was wrestling Chris Benoit at the 11/5 ECW Arena show in Philadelphia, when 2:00 into the match, there was a miscommunication regarding a move and Sabu took a backdrop where he attempted a full 1 1/2 flip over and instead of making it, landed on his head. Apparently Sabu told manager Paul E. Dangerously to stop the match immediately because he believed he had broken his neck and was taken to the hospital that night. Considering Sabu insisted on going on a few weeks ago in Hamburg, PA after cracking his ribs early in a match with Cactus Jack, then after catching his breath doing several suicidal high spots, the idea that he wanted the match stopped with his mental toughness and borderline insanity tells you just how much pain he must have been in. Sabu's injuries were a bruised spine, a cracked vertebrae and some never damage in his shoulder and he's expected out of action probably until the 11/19 Philadelphia show. He was scheduled to run his own show this week in Inkster, MI. We didn't receive official word the show would be postponed although it was widely expected that would be the case.

NOVEMBER 14, 1994

Tons of news from the weekend including three title changes. At the TV taping on 11/4 in Hamburg, PA, Too Cold Scorpio beat Jason for the TV title, only to lose it later in the taping to Dean Malenko. Public Enemy regained the tag team titles at the 11/5 ECW Arena card in a match with Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck.

As part of the legal settlement with WCW for WCW using the "When Worlds Collide" name on the PPV over the weekend, WCW will send Steve Austin, Sherri Martel and Kevin Sullivan to the 11/19 show which goes head-to-head with Dennis Coraluzzo's NWA tournament, which in and of itself is the subject of yet another dispute this week with Jim Crockett. Austin & Shane Douglas, managed by Martel, face Ron Simmons & Scorpio, while Sullivan & Cactus Jack face Public Enemy.

The 11/5 show drew what was said to be the group's largest crowd to date, about 1,050 fans and up until the main event disaster with Chris Benoit vs. Sabu, threatened to be the best show the group has put on in several months. The show opened with a guitar player playing the national anthem and

screwing it up (a very inside joke aimed at WWF & WCW for having the anthem screwed up on major recent shows-- actually it seems 40% of this group is inside knocks at WWF & WCW). 911 then came out and choke-slammed the guitar player. Mr. Hughes subbed for Doink the Osborne who went with Dennis Coraluzzo instead and lost to Scorpio. Tommy Cairo juiced a major gusher so his match with Tommy Dreamer was stopped on blood. Douglas kept the ECW title pinning Ron Simmons, who wasn't over in the least and even though he was supposed to be the face, got on the house mic and yelled at the fans who didn't care about him. Douglas won cleanly with a pin, but afterwards Scorpio comes out and the two double-team Douglas and leave him laying when Scorpio hits a moonsault on him. Then Sandman, in dark glasses and tape on his eyes, comes out. Sandman said he didn't regret anything he did during his career. Anyway, it wound up with both Woman and Peaches (Sandman's wife although the two are separated in the ECW storyline) coming out. Peaches, complete with a surgically endowed new body in a string bikini top, comes out and tells Sandman how she's now different but of course Sandman can't see. Anyway, they end up kissing and making up when Woman hits the ring and hits Peaches with the stick and starts threatening to hit Sandman who is still acting like he can't see, which of course brings out Dreamer. As Dreamer and Woman argue, Sandman pulls the patches off his eyes and the glasses and grabs the stick (that woman had dropped) and destroys Dreamer with it. Woman then announces her new protege will be Sandman once again, Sandman lit up a cigarette and dropped the ashes on both Peaches and Dreamer laying out. Dean Malenko then beat Tazmaniac with the ether on the towel finish. Public Enemy regained the tag titles from Whippreck & Cactus when Johnny Grunge hit Whippreck with a baseball bat coming off the top rope. During the match Sabu and Rocko Rock got into it when Rocko set up tables and was going to break them with a splash. The show ended with Benoit-Sabu. After the match ended 2:00 in, 911 ran in and choke slammed Benoit and there was a wild brawl for about 10:00.

At the 11/4 taping before 355, Chad Austin came out and said ECW was a small-time promotion with no talent and that he's joined a real promotion, SMW (this is because SMW is running four shows in the Philadelphia area in two weeks). Douglas came out and beat him up, forcing him to say "ECW is No. 1" on the house mic. Public Enemy faced Hack Myers & 911 in a match where 911 choke-slammed his partner and both opponents. Jason & Pit Bulls then attacked Paul E. Dangerously and brawled with 911. They did a match with Tommy Dreamer vs. Dan Harris with Cindy Lane and Woman hit Cindy Lane with the stick and after the match, Dreamer hit her with the stick as well. They're building toward a feud in December with Sabu & Taz vs. Public Enemy. They did a six-man with Hughes & Douglas & Hack Meyers vs. Benoit & Simmons & Scorpio which ended with Hughes & Douglas turning on Meyers and Benoit walking out on Simmons & Scorpio and Meyers getting pinned. Finale saw Cactus Jack beat Sabu in a falls count anywhere using the elbow off the apron to the floor in a **** match.

NOVEMBER 21, 1994

This week's word on Sabu is that he still lacks feeling in his right arm and hand due to nerve damage from landing on his head in the match with Chris Benoit in Philadelphia. He canceled his show on 11/10 in Inkster, MI but is trying to come back on 11/18-19 for his ECW bookings and then leave for an FMW tour.

Speaking of ECW, people are raving about the Tommy Dreamer/Sandman/Peaches/Woman angle that aired on television this past week that was taped at the 11/5 house show. Also on the TV, they did a commercial for their own When Worlds Collide video (of a house show a few months back) and gave the phone number to order in Spanish. ECW is looking at running house shows either Christmas week or in early January in Florida.

NOVEMBER 28, 1994

Besides the main event (see page five), other highlights of the 11/19 show saw Public Enemy and Kevin Sullivan & Cactus Jack do a non-finish as Sullivan turned on Jack, and Mikey Whippreck helped Jack out. After the match Rocko Rock set up Jack on a table and was about to come off the top with a senton on him when Sabu & Tazmaniac hit the ring. Sabu put a chair on the top rope and jumped off it onto Johnny Grunge who was on a table outside the ring. Sabu & Taz, who are going to feud with Public Enemy probably starting on next month's card, defeated Joe & Dean Malenko earlier. After the match Jason and the Pit Bulls hit the ring and 911 makes the save choke slamming both Pit Bulls. Public Enemy then did a run-in and gave Sabu a stuff-piledriver. Paul E. Dangerously hit Grunge with the phone but Rocko laid Paul E. out on a table and does a senton on him and Dangerously did a stretcher job. 911's early card choke slam victim this time was ring announcer Bob Artese, who got it twice. Expect a Shane Douglas vs. Ron Simmons match again on the next show.

ECW on 12/10 in Bristol, PA has Sabu vs. Cactus, Al Snow vs. Taz and Tommy Dreamer vs. Tommy Cairo with the winner facing Sandman later in the show.

DECEMBER 5, 1994

Next ECW Arena show is 12/17 with Shane Douglas vs. Ron Simmons for the title, Public Enemy defending the tag title against Sabu & Tazmaniac, 911 in a handicap match vs. Pit Bulls and Sandman vs. Cactus Jack.

We're told Sabu didn't crack any vertebrae in the injury a few weeks back but did receive a pinched nerve.

DECEMBER 12, 1994

No shows this weekend. Paul Heyman was in Chicago and Los Angeles this week trying to negotiate cable deals.

John Arezzi is putting together a bus trip from Long Island to Philadelphia for the 12/17 show which include second row seats. Cactus Jack will be on the bus. For more info you can call 516-587-2861. The plans, if there is enough interest is to do bus trips for all the ECW Arena shows.

DECEMBER 19, 1994

Correction from last week. We reported they didn't run any shows but they did do a show on 12/3 in Norristown, PA. The only show this past week was on 12/10 in Bristol, PA. They did an angle to start a long-term feud with Cactus Jack and Sandman. Jack was doing an interview talking about Kevin Sullivan when Woman came out and said she didn't want Jack talking about her husband like that and Sandman cracked him with the kendo stick from behind and they left Jack laying. Jack wound

up doing a run-in during a mixed tag with Woman & Sandman vs. Tommy Dreamer & Peaches but it ended up with both Jack and Dreamer left laying, which also will probably result in them doing some teaming.

For those around the country wanting to travel to the ECW Arena, after 12/17, follow-up dates are 1/7 and 2/4.

Scotty Flamingo (Johnny Polo) starts on 1/7 and Al Snow is also supposed to work as a regular after debuting on 12/10 against Tazmaniac.

Feelers have been sent out to get an ECW match with Public Enemy on the 4/2 Tokyo Dome show.

The Florida dates have been moved to 1/14 at the Davie Arena and 1/16 at the Orlando Armory.

Sunshine Network will be moving the TV to Friday nights in January.

DECEMBER 26, 1994

How's this for a switch? The 12/17 show at the ECW Arena before about 800 was below the norm, so after the show, when the fans started chanting "ECW, ECW" as is the norm, booker Paul E. Dangerously grabbed the house mic and started swearing telling fans not to chant ECW because we didn't deserve it and because we didn't give you anything to chant for. The main event had Public Enemy retain the tag titles beating Sabu & Tazmaniac. After the match there was a brawl involving the four along with Dean Malenko & Chris Benoit and 911 got involved and wound up choke slamming everyone. The idea was originally to set up for a three-way tag team match with Enemy, Sabu & Taz and Malenko & Benoit, but the run-in was totally screwed up when the monitor went out backstage so Malenko & Benoit came out too soon and by the time it was over, they had never turned on Public Enemy, so it may be a 3 vs. 4 with 911 & Sabu & Taz vs. Enemy & Benoit & Malenko as the headline match for 1/7. Both Cactus Jack and Tommy Dreamer won't be on the show because they'll be with IWA and All Japan respectively. The ECW title match was screwed up as well. Ron Simmons was injured going into the show. They ran an angle on 12/16 where Benoit & Malenko "injured" his shoulder in Hamburg, PA to set him up for wearing a sling. He came out and said he couldn't work, but Shane Douglas insulted him until he went at it with one-arm, but eventually Douglas got the sling off him and pinned him in less than 5:00. The main angle everyone is talking about was when Santa Claus came into the ring and the minute he came out, everyone knew what was going to happen. 911 chokeslammed him. This brought out the Pit Bulls who doubled on 911, but he made his comeback and chokeslammed both for the pin. Benoit is doing a crippler gimmick since Sabu's neck injury took place during their match, and they gave him credit for the Simmons injury (which was legit but actually took place a few weeks ago while he was on a tour of Germany and he canceled his subsequent Japan tour over it), and Hack Myers also did a stretcher job for him during the show.

Steve Richards is doing a Shawn Michaels gimmick and is being hooked up with Johnny Polo when he comes in with the gimmick he's there to keep the women from Polo.

They brought in two midgets to the show to try and talk them into being chokeslammed by 911 on the 1/7 show.

They also announced on the show that 911 was named PWI rookie of the year. Paul E. really pushed for Public Enemy to get the tag team award but they had already made the deal with WCW to get most of the major awards in exchange for appearing at Starrcade for mag publicity which actually turned into major controversy WCW way. Some at WCW are mad since they are starting their own company magazine and this gives a competitor publicity on their own shows. In addition, the WCW hotline was planning its own fans voting for wrestler of the year to be given at Starrcade but it was nixed because Hogan was already getting one in exchange for giving the mag publicity on a PPV and there was also concern within the company if they did a 900 number poll, by law they have to reveal the legit results and the fear was in a shoot poll that Flair would win which Hogan's entourage and the higher ups would hate to have to admit.

Wildest match was Cactus & Dreamer over Sandman & Tommy Cairo which saw valet Angel, introduced as Virgin Princess Angel, get cracked over the head with a cane by Cactus and juiced. After the match Cactus said something to the effect that they deflowered the virgin.

This group has cleared Prime Sports Network in Denver, Salt Lake City and St. Louis on Monday nights at 11:30 p.m. and will start in a floating Thursday night time slot on MSG network in New York on 1/5.

Funniest line of the week was when Public Enemy was talking about Sabu being the most homicidal, suicidal, genocidal wrestler in the world, they didn't know what the word genocidal meant, and finally thought it meant that he was spayed or neutered like a dog or a cat.

The reason Matt Osborne isn't returning as Borne Again is because he canceled out on some dates more than a month ago when he got the Germany tour with the Hart brothers and ECW wasn't happy with how he handled the situation.

JANUARY 2, 1995

They announced the top matches for 1/14 in Davie, FL (Shane Douglas vs. Ron Simmons for ECW title, Dean Malenko vs. Tazmaniac for TV title) and 1/16 in Orlando, FL (Public Enemy vs. Sabu & Tazmaniac for ECW tag title, Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio vs. Malenko & Chris Benoit).

Highlight of last weeks' television was the Cactus Jack & Tommy Dreamer vs. Sandman & Tommy Cairo match. Match itself wasn't as good as I'd been led to believe, but the stick shot Cactus Jack gave Angel at the end was unbelievable. However, the angle didn't work on television because of the poor p.a. system in the building as on television you couldn't hear what Jack was telling Dreamer (the idea was that he begged Dreamer not to hit her and to give him the stick, and then when he finally did, Jack immediately hit her).

Steve Richards has changed his ring name to Stevie Flamingo and is doing a cross between a Scotty Flamingo and Shawn Michaels gimmick and will probably be Scotty Flamingo's protege or flunkie when he starts up on the 1/7 show.

ECW contacted Dan Severn's manager and wanted to bring him in to put over Dean Malenko but they declined.

They will be having a party at LeBarbat's night club in Manhattan on 1/5 to promote their debut on MSG cable later that night. There has been a lot of speculation on what would happen should they decide to promote in New York state in regard to the athletic commission toning down the shows.

JANUARY 9, 1995

Tully Blanchard is coming in to challenge Shane Douglas for the ECW title on 1/7. They are trying to intimate that Blanchard is somehow another emissary of Ric Flair pointing the them being tag team partners from years back. Besides the three vs. four match already announced, also added to the show this past week is Pit Bulls vs. Axl & Ian Rotten with the losing team having to split up, and Mikey Whippreck vs. The Giant (5-4) Paul Lauria.

On the angle talked about in the 12/26 issue where Cactus Jack clocked Angel with the stick, it was actually Tommy Dreamer and not Cactus Jack who made the remark about busting the virgin's cherry. Even ECW edited that off television.

After being called Steve Flamingo last week, Steve Richards, doing a Scotty Flamingo imitation, this week was being called Stevie the Body and I have a feeling next week he'll be Stevie Polo.

The 1/6 Hamburg, PA show was canceled.

JANUARY 16, 1995

The 1/7 ECW Arena show which drew a sellout of approximately 1,000 started out strong but ended on a sour note. Starting with the negative, the Shane Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard "60:00" draw (which actually was about 43:00) was probably the worst received match in the history of the promotion. We've received numerous reports on the match, ranging from it really wasn't bad but the crowd didn't accept it because there were no chair shots to it was just god-awful with the latter few being by far the majority. It was so bad that the bleachers section turned their back on the match and began chanting "We Want Bingo," "Who Booked this Crap" and for somebody to do a job and end it. Reporters are that Blanchard, who hasn't worked much in several years and is 41-years-old, was blown up anywhere from 8:00 to 15:00 in and the match itself was 85 to 90% restholds. Fans booed every near fall when a wrestler would kick out. The idea going in was that these two would have a classic match to build for a rematch, but they didn't have that classic and no word on how or if future plans have changed because of it. It didn't help that the final match on the show, the 3-on-4 match with Sabu & Tazmaniac & 911 beating Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko & Public Enemy which ended when Benoit accidentally dropkicked Johnny Grunge allowing Taz to pin him, only went 6:00 with no expected major post-match angle. The crowd heavily booed at the end of the show instead of the usual chants of "ECW." Up until that point it had been a strong show. Steve Richards introduced his manager Raven (Johnny Polo doing a take-off on "The Crow"). Richards then beat Hack Myers when Raven used a loaded-boot on Myers "bad neck" (from the match with Benoit at the previous card). Al Snow got over strong in his debut having the best wrestling match of the show beating Osamu Nishimura in a match where both shook hands after the match. Too Cold Scorpio was attacked by Benoit & Malenko before his match with Sandman after Scorpio had complained about what the two had done to Ron Simmons at the previous card. Sandman took advantage of the injury but

Scorpio came back and won anyway and after the match Benoit, Malenko and Sandman attacked and left Scorpio laying. "Giant" Paul Loria (about 5-3 1/2) pinned Mikey Whippreck when Jason gave him a karate kick to the back of the head. Loria would look green in one spot and good in another showing strong facials. In reality, the two are best friends and Whippreck got his job as a wrestler with ECW as when the two as part of the ring crew were screwing around in the ring doing dangerous high spots. The two did the spot of the show when Whippreck did a Rey Misterio Jr. plancha off the top rope onto Loria in the front row. Pit Bulls then beat Bad Breed, Axl & Ian Rotten in a match where the losing team would have to split up. This was the ECW special four-way juice, brawling all over with the fans participating in giving all four various foreign objects and rated anywhere from four-to-five stars depending upon who you talk with. After the match Ian turned on Axl.

At the 2/4 show, there will be a convention of fans from the Internet from across the country attending.

Barry Windham was contacted about coming in to wrestle Shane Douglas as another emissary of Ric Flair but Windham has a lawsuit out against WCW claiming his knee was so badly damaged working there that he'll be suffering for life and unable to ever wrestle again. In fact, Eric Bischoff was supposed to be in deposition with Windham's lawyers this week.

ECW's time slot on the MSG network will be moved permanently to Midnight on Wednesday nights starting 1/18.

Tod Gordon apparently vetoed having 911 choke slam midgets.

It's been reported in Japan that ECW and the new W*ING promotion formed by Mickey Ibaragi have reached a talent trading agreement but that wasn't confirmed here. The report claimed Jason the Terrible (Roberto Rodriguez) would work for ECW next month, and that Shane Douglas and Public Enemy would tour for W*ING in March.

ECW did a short tribute to Art Barr on television two weeks ago at the end of the show. Barr had never worked for the promotion although about one week before he died, Paul Heyman had called Barr up about he and Eddy Guerrero working with Public Enemy. Ironically, to this point, neither AAA nor WCW did anything of the sort on their television and in fact WCW never even mentioned it on their television. AAA did do a tribute at a television taping, as did EMLL, but because emotions ran so high, neither ended up airing on television.

JANUARY 23, 1995

The 1/14 Davie, FL and 1/16 Orlando shows drew small but enthusiastic crowds of about 300 each night. The crowds were into the storylines from the television and knew the personalities and at the end of the Davie, FL show they threw tons of chairs into the ring while in Orlando they chanted "ECW." They are talking about returning in April, although with crowds of that size using so many wrestlers mainly from the Northeast and even a few fly-ins, it had to be a major disappointment financially. Highlights in Davie saw Tazmaniac over Dean Malenko via DQ in 3:35 when Chris Benoit did a run-in and 911 cleaned house on Benoit, Malenko and Jason. Cactus Jack and Sandman had a ****1/2 brawl all over the

building with double juice, Benoit pinned Too Cold Scorpio in a very good technical match, Public Enemy kept the tag titles beating Death Row 3260 & Mr. President (Joe DiFuria) while Shane Douglas beat Ron Simmons in 6:56 when the ref stopped it due to Simmons' injured shoulder. Douglas went into his Flair is dead speech when Tully Blanchard (who didn't work the undercard or the other show) came out and did a stare-down with Douglas until Benoit & Malenko came out and Benoit put Blanchard in the figure four until 911 and Tazmaniac made the save. Orlando wasn't as strong a show with Public Enemy over Sabu & Tazmaniac the best match even though Sabu was limping badly from blowing out his ankle the night before in Los Angeles. Razor Ramon was backstage at the Orlando show.

This past week's television show largely revolved around the group's party celebrating their New York debut with them trying to portray Shane Douglas in a total Ric Flair suit-and-tie ladies man gimmick and trying to act like fans are in awe of him like they were with Flair.

Correction from last week's issue. 911 is not Al McGill. The confusion is there was a wrestler in the Northeast named Sledgehammer McGill who isn't 911, and a wrestler named Al the Sledgehammer who is 911.

Next shows are 2/3 in Jim Thorpe, PA and 2/4 in Philadelphia.

JANUARY 30, 1995

For ECW fans in Atlanta, Dirty Al's Sports Bar in Marietta is going to be holding weekly get-togethers every Tuesday at 6 p.m. to watch the ECW television show off the satellite.

This past week's television aired Mikey Whippreck vs. Paul Lauria, Pit Bulls vs. Bad Breed and Al Snow vs. Osamu Nishimura from the last ECW Arena show. Bouts were all good, although maybe not as good as I'd been led to believe. Whippreck did a plancha onto Lauria about two rows into the crowd as stated that was a real daredevil spot. He and his former best friend worked great high spots with each other although the brawling was pretty green.

Public Enemy did an interview on the TV cracking on everyone in wrestling. They thanked Vince McMahon for giving them so much publicity because all he talks about are the new generation of wrestlers when everyone knows they are the new generation. They also talked about the Tully Blanchard-Shane Douglas 60:00 saying that Douglas not only tortured Blanchard for 60:00 but also tortured all the fans.

2/4 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia will be an ECW tag title match with Public Enemy vs. Sabu & Tazmaniac with the only way to win to break tables with both opponents on the table, Cactus Jack vs. Sandman in an Amarillo style Texas death match, Chris Benoit vs. Al Snow, Ian Rotten vs. Axl Rotten, Steve Richards vs. Tommy Dreamer, Whippreck vs. Lauria and more. There may be a Shane Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard rematch but that isn't finalized as of press time.

2/3 in Jim Thorpe, PA has Tazmaniac vs. Benoit, Public Enemy vs. J.T. Smith & Hack Myers, Dreamer vs. Tommy Cairo in a caning match and Sabu vs. Snow.

FEBRUARY 6, 1995

Shane Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard will headline the 2/4 Philadelphia show after all. The storyline they're trying to push is that Blanchard came back and tried to be a wrestler which is why the first match was so boring (they don't outright say this but strongly hint at it) but that this time he's coming in as a brawler as the old Tully Blanchard as opposed to the new Tully Blanchard. From what I understand, this will be a lengthy program and during upcoming interviews, Douglas will talk about Blanchard's days with the Four Horsemen when he would do matches high on coke and drunk. After 2/4, the next ECW Arena date scheduled at press time was 3/18 although they may take a date in between.

This group got a local TV clearance in Birmingham, AL on WABM (Ch. 68) at 11 a.m. Saturdays. The station currently is airing Jim Crockett's Dallas tapes in that slot and station officials claim they aren't making a change nor are they interested in any new wrestling shows. History of doing this newsletter has shown that when a wrestling promotion that isn't totally out in left field like a Herb Abrams group announces a clearance and you call the TV station and they say "No", that 85 times out of 100 it's the TV station that's the one not telling the truth which says something from that industry when wrestling promoters are more likely to be telling the truth. Similarly when a promoter with a decent rep announces a show in a building and the building says there is no deal and no show, odds are 85% that there is and it's the building that won't reveal it because tickets aren't on sale yet and they don't want to be bothered by people calling when they don't have tickets to sell them.

ECW claims the Davie, FL show drew 548 paid although there were about 300 in the building because the weather was so horrible the day of the show, and that Orlando drew 427 (we had reported 300), but the shows were a success because they did \$7,200 in merchandise, mainly videotape sales, at the two shows which by American standards is a remarkable per-cap for souvenirs. They'll return to Florida in April.

For those in the New York area, MSG is bouncing the show around so there is no set time and these are the February air dates, 2/5, 2/6, 2/10, 2/13, 2/25 all at 1 a.m.

TV this week aired from Davie, FL with a match between Chris Benoit vs. Too Cold Scorpio. It was like the 1-2-3 Kid & Razor vs. Diesel & Shawn Michaels WWF TV match of a few months back but as far as crowd goes multiplied by ten. Multiplied in that the guys were doing this fantastic match and there was ten times less reaction with fans just sitting there with their arms folded not into it at all. The same match in a building where the fans were into wrestling would have been ***1/2. The other bout they aired was Shane Douglas vs. Ron Simmons and even with a lot of mic work and good psychology and a great finishing spot (Simmons went to press Douglas off the top rope ala Flair, but Douglas grabbed Simmons' bad arm and jumped off the top rope to the floor pump handling the bad arm causing Simmons being unable to continue), the crowd heat was only slightly better.

For more info on the weekly showings of ECW television off the Philadelphia satellite every Tuesday night at Dirty Al's in Marietta, GA you can call 404-974-5942.

FEBRUARY 13, 1995

The most talked about smaller promotion in the world is without a doubt the Philadelphia-based Extreme Championship Wrestling. The ironies are many. ECW is a group that has never drawn much more than 1,000 to any show in its history. Yet it was one of two American promotions to be invited to the multi-promotion Tokyo Dome show. It finished third for best promotion and won best television show in the Observer balloting. Among its relatively small core of fans are people who regularly drive hundreds of miles to the converted Bingo Hall for its major show each month.

The irony doesn't end there. Promoters involved with much larger organizations such as Eric Bischoff this past weekend with WCW (when plugging the PPV in Baltimore on World Wide noted that they're running the Baltimore Arena and not a Bingo Hall) and Ron Skoler are clearly bothered with the attention ECW receives. ECW is talked of as being the best wrestling in the United States and among groups that regularly run house show it probably delivers the best house show product. An asterisk has to be put by that statement when comparisons are made with other groups, because judging from the physical punishment many of the guys take, they couldn't possibly work at that level if they were doing four or five shows a week and survive very long. Despite not having six figure contracts, it has two of the four most exciting performers that work regularly in the United States as regulars on top in Sabu and Chris Benoit. It has, if not the best television show, certainly the most creative and inventive show. The episode that aired on 1/31 was among the best one hour U.S. TV shows I've ever seen. Its followers, remarkably similar in some ways and in other ways completely different to the mid-80s WWF fans and FMW Korakuen Hall fans, some of whom will defend it to no end, ignore its shortcomings, overstate its strengths and go crazy at even the hint any other wrestling or wrestlers could be better. Most fans, however, simply appear to be appreciative that they can see matches in their area where they know going in that everyone will work extremely hard, that shortcuts will be minimized or non-existent, that even though run-ins and outside interference will occur, that they will see a winner and a loser in just about every match and that something unpredictable is almost guaranteed to take place at almost any time on the show. There is probably more of what can best be called Team Unity, not just among the wrestlers but among the fans and the wrestlers combined, of any promotion I've ever seen in the United States. Every match on the show isn't always good, but every match does at least have something and nothing on the show comes off as something being done to kill or waste time.

Fans from approximately 20 states and four countries were among the 790 (paid was probably slightly more because some who bought advanced tickets, particularly from out-of-town, may not have wanted to challenge the weather conditions) or so fans, a figure held down by a severe snowstorm which caused WWF to cancel all its American house show dates over the weekend, at the ECW Arena on 2/4 for booker Paul Heyman's latest concoction. Realistically, the group can best be compared with the IWA in Japan, both in quality and in style, although the booking is far more creative.

The 2/4 show reminded me a lot of a show I saw of IWA some ten weeks earlier at Korakuen Hall. A lot of hard work from guys who are fairly inexperienced. A very over tag team on top in an excellent gimmick match main event. One excellently wrestled match in mid-card. A lot of blood, stiff chair shots and suicidal performances in between, and even a former big name who is somewhat out of place being used because they were once stars in that city. Head Hunters are Public Enemy from a role standpoint. Dick Slater is Tully Blanchard. Chris Benoit vs. Al Snow is like Silver King & El Texano vs. Super Astro & Takashi Okano. Cactus Jack is Cactus Jack. Terry Funk is Sabu. Ian Rotten is Shoji Nakamaki, although Rotten hasn't been bodyslammed on broken glass or taken bumps on a bed of nails 2,000 thumb tacks yet. But then again, he hasn't been asked either.

1. The Pit Bulls & Jason the Terrible (Roberto Rodriguez of the old and new W*ING group in Japan) defeated Hack Myers & The Young Dragons (Don E. Allen & ?) in 11:20. It was mainly a squash when the Dragons were in with Myers being given some offense and getting disgusted when the Dragons couldn't hold up their end. The most humorous part of the match was when one of the Dragons (the one who wasn't Don E. Allen) had his mask and wig come off (this didn't look like a planned spot because nobody seemed to know how to react when this happened) and he worked the rest of the match without it. Jason the Terrible, as opposed to Jason the Manager, was impressive. Myers juiced from Jason's hockey goalkeeper mask head-butts. After the Dragons were destroyed, it was three-on-one on Hack who was pinned when the Pit Bulls dropped J the Terrible on him. After the match Hack beat up both Young Dragons and chased the Pit Bulls off with a chair. He then cornered and attacked Jason the Manager. Then valet Angel the Virgin Princess wearing a white wedding dress came out and slapped Myers a few times. Myers punched her twice and started spanking her, but she liked getting spanked and got up and started kissing Myers until Myers finally kicked her in the stomach and gave her a piledriver and she did a stretcher job. And this was just the opener. **

2. Tommy Dreamer pinned Steve Richards in 7:38. Dreamer was playing to the out-of-towners, largely an Internet group, wearing one of their t-shirts. At one point Richards got it off him and started wearing it taunting the group. Dreamer was really over to one section of the audience but even after the push, he's still not that popular with the rest of the audience although it's improved a great deal from last summer when he was booed out of the building every time out. After several near falls, Raven (Scotty Flamingo/Johnny Polo) interfered and held Dreamer while Richards used a superkick. This was all right in front of the ref and far too blatant even for a group trying to get over that they don't do cheap DQ endings except in rare circumstances. Dreamer won with a cradle. After the match Dreamer nearly got into it with Raven and as they dragged Raven off and Dreamer challenged him to come back he told "Johnny Polo" to give a message to his friends at the WWF to kiss his ass. *1/2

3. Mikey Whippreck pinned Paul Lauria in 9:17. Lauria, about 5-4, is billed as "The Giant." These guys are actually high school best friends. The match was really choreographed, like watching really green Mexican wrestlers who try a million cool spots and pull some of them off. They worked like crazy but the timing was off in a lot of spots. At one point Whippreck missed a plancha and crashed onto the floor (planned spot). At another point, Lauria delivered something akin to an elbow drop using a chair to the throat, but Whippreck's chin got in the way and was busted open and needed six stitches after the

match and blood was all over his mouth. At another point Jason the Manager suplexed Whippreck face-first onto the table. Both wrestlers were standing on the top rope when Whippreck bulldogged Lauria into the ring. Jason broke up the pin and Whippreck punched Jason. Inside the ring, they did the backbridge into a backslide spot with Whippreck scoring the pin. This wasn't as good as their match on the previous show.
*1/4

4. Ian Rotten pinned Axl Rotten in 6:41. Total bloodbath brawl. Axl had the entire match working as the babyface using a street sign, brutal chairs shots, the spots where fans hold up chairs and Ian gets thrown into them. Fans were handing Axl different foreign objects (most notably flying pans) and he really popped Ian with them. Ian juiced like crazy. Like Yukihiro Kanemura city. Once he got done with what was left of his forehead he started juicing his shoulder. Out of nowhere, Ian double-legged Axl, put his feet on the middle ropes for leverage and got the pin. ***1/4

5. Chris Benoit pinned Al Snow in 14:36. Both guys were heavily cheered coming out which says something for the crowd since Snow had only worked in the building once before. For pure wrestling, nothing on the show came close. Benoit's execution is flawless, his work is so stiff you can't ignore it and his intensity such that nobody can miss that he's in the top two or three in the world and Snow hung with him. One great spot after another with Benoit working as a heel although the crowd heavily cheered both men. Hottest spot was Snow doing a springboard from the apron into a dropkick to Benoit, who had his back turned. Snow also did a german suplex starting while instead of being behind Benoit, with Benoit on his stomach on the ground. After all kinds of great suplexes, Benoit used the dragon suplex (full nelson german suplex) for the pin. They are doing a crippler gimmick with Benoit who is going to get an enormous push, so Snow, who is leaving for SMW, did a stretcher job. ****

6. Shane Douglas retained the ECW title pinning Tully Blanchard in 10:11. Douglas kicked out of Blanchard's slingshot suplex in the first minute. The fans didn't seem to have forgiven Blanchard for his performance on the previous show. Match was mainly brawling with some strong spots but the crowd wasn't into it very well. Blanchard tried to suplex Douglas into the ring, Douglas held onto the ropes and fell onto Blanchard for the pin. After the match Douglas held up three fingers (they are trying to make Douglas, Benoit and Dean Malenko into a Three Horsemen type group) and Blanchard came back in acting like he was going to shake hands, then threw Douglas over the top rope, which apparently was a concession in order to get him to do the clean job finish. Douglas appeared to come out of the match with a bruised up thigh after doing a Cactus Jack double over the top rope clothesline spot. **

7. Cactus Jack beat Sandman in an old-style Texas death match in 16:09. Both Jack and Sandman came into the match with neck injuries suffered the previous night (Jack's was in Tokyo, he flew in about 19 hours straight to make it for the show). Jack had said in his interview the previous week that he'd retire if he lost this match. Jack used three brutal chair shots, one of which gave Sandman a severe concussion (He was hospitalized through the following Monday morning after throwing up backstage and in the hospital that night with the combination of concussion and compressed neck) in the first minute of the match. Sandman kept working but it was a blur. Jack continued to pound on him with the frying pans, chairs and whatever other object fans gave him. Apparently Jack

realized Sandman was out and kept pinning him so Sandman would stay down and lose, but Sandman was so far gone that he kept getting up because his memory was gone and he'd forgotten the death match concept. They worked hard and all the blows were brutal so in that way it was still a good match, but from a psychology standpoint it was awful since Jack simply kept winning fall after fall with a double arm DDT and Sandman kept getting up after the three count so the match would keep going, even when Jack did the elbow drop off the apron with a chair. Finally Sandman didn't get up for the ninth fall and the match was over. ***

Before the main event, Lauria came out and said he was the "true giant" of pro wrestling in what appeared to be kind of a spoof on the old WWF days when tall heels like John Studd or Blackjack Mulligan would say that for matches against Andre the Giant. He then began insulting 911, "the other giant," who came out and did three choke-slams on him. Because Lauria is so small, 911 would get him up high and lock his elbow and walk around holding him with one hand overhead before planting him down. So I guess 911 finally got to choke slam a midget.

8. Sabu & Tazmaniac won the ECW tag titles from Public Enemy in 9:46 in a match where both team members had to be put through tables before the match could end. Another wild match mainly with brawling and chair shots although Sabu opened with a tape. At one point Johnny Grunge was on the table and Sabu put a chair on the top rope and came off but Grunge moved and Sabu went through the table. At another point Tazmaniac suplexed Sabu onto Rock. It wound up with a table being set up and Tazmaniac and Grunge brawling on the ropes and both falling backwards through a table so both were eliminated. Grunge threw powder in Taz's eyes and Sabu was double-teamed and Rock went off the top rope with a drive by (senton in Mexican lingo, backward splash) onto Sabu who went through the table but the refs back was turned so he couldn't call the finish. Sabu came back amidst chaos with Paul E. Dangerously and 911 involved and came off the top rope with a legdrop onto Rock on a table on the floor for the win. After the match the brawl continued with Sabu setting up a table in the corner and KOing Rock and putting him on the table. Sabu got another table and put it on the top rope and was set to come off. Before he leaped, Benoit did a run-in and Sabu wound up both on the table pretty much almost doing a dance just to maintain their balance. Benoit, who must have incredible strength and balance to have pulled this off, while standing on the shaky table on the top rope, kicked Sabu, picked him up for a power bomb and then leaped off sending Sabu and himself both onto Rock and through the table for an amazing spot. Rock ended up being carried out and Sabu was left laying. They are doing an injury angle with Rock so he won't wrestle on the next house show and may have him on television in a wheelchair. The 2/25 ECW Arena main event will be Sabu & Tazmaniac defending against Benoit & Malenko on 2/25 with eventual plans to build toward a triangular match with all three teams in March. ****1/4

The deal we talked about last week with WBAM in Birmingham, AL is a done deal. In fact, the station did some promotional work with several of the wrestlers and they did a local angle with Shane Douglas and Tully Blanchard at a race track.

They are also close to making a deal for New Orleans television and running house shows and television tapings from a local casino.

Besides the ECW Arena, they also did a spot show on 2/3 before about 400 at a night club in Jim Thorpe, PA with no major angles coming out of it but Sabu beating Al Snow in a **** match on top.

Both Terry Funk and D.C. Drake were talked with about coming in to feud with Cactus Jack. The Funk deal fell through and Drake deal was supposed to begin on 2/4 however Drake was stranded somewhere in New England and couldn't make it in. Don't be surprised to see him come in.

The 1/31 television show may have been the best ECW hour to date. It featured two ****1/4 matches--one with Sabu & Tazmaniac vs. Public Enemy and the other a falls count anywhere with Sandman vs. Cactus Jack--both from 1/16 in Orlando, FL. Jack did an excellent interview at the end saying he'd hang it up if he couldn't beat Sandman in their death match in Philadelphia.

The reason Jason the Terrible worked the 2/4 card is because his promoter, Mickey Ibaragi of the new W*ING in Japan was there to make a deal. Ibaragi was looking to bring in several ECW wrestlers, since, because Weekly Pro Wrestling pushes every ECW Philadelphia show as if it's a major U.S. event, ECW has a strong hardcore following in the Tokyo area particularly. Ibaragi was looking at headlining his first tour with Public Enemy the last week of March. They are in the talking stages but the deal isn't completed. In addition, IWA's Victor Quinones, who had a falling out with this group more than one year ago (when Head Hunters no-showed a main event) is attempting to mend fences using Cactus Jack as a liaison. Ibaragi verbally agreed to Heyman's terms but it's not a done deal and there is dressing room heat over Ibaragi announcing guys as appearing in Japan before the deal was done, and over announcing Tazmaniac, who is a regular for Heisei Ishingun, as appearing on the tour.

FEBRUARY 20, 1995

Sandman is going to be kept off shows until early March because he's still shaken up from the concussion on the 2/4 show although he's doing okay. Public Enemy is also being kept off until 3/3 to sell the angle where Chris Benoit powerbombed Sabu onto Rocko Rock and through the table on the same show to heat up a grudge for upcoming Philadelphia shows.

Thus far the only new stuff from here are line-ups for 2/24 in Kennett Square, PA (Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko vs. Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck, Ian Rotten vs. Axl Rotten, Shane Douglas vs. Hector Guerrero for ECW title and Sabu vs. Too Cold Scorpio); 3/3 at Northeast Catholic High School in Northeast Philadelphia (Douglas vs. Tully Blanchard for ECW title, Sabu vs. Osamu Nishimura, Malenko defending TV title vs. Scorpio, Sandman vs. J.T. Smith in a cane match, Tommy Dreamer vs. Steve Richards and Benoit vs. Tazmaniac); 3/4 at Cheyney University (Douglas vs. Scorpio for the title with Blanchard as referee, Public Enemy vs. Sabu & Tazmaniac, Sandman vs. Dreamer in a cane match, Whipwreck vs. Paul Loria).

Added to the 2/25 Philadelphia card is Cactus Jack vs. mystery opponent managed by Woman, who may wind up being D.C. Drake.

The Chris Benoit vs. Al Snow match from 2/4 aired on television this past week and they aired still footage of the Public Enemy vs. Sabu & Tazmaniac match but showing video of the power bomb through the table by Benoit. They concluded with a lengthy Benoit interview which was 400% improved over anything he's ever done before, although he's still not where he needs to be on interviews if they want him to be a drawing card or a standout in a promotion which has some of the best interviews around.

Heyman wanted to air a tape of Sabu & Tazmaniac from the 2/12 Korakuen Hall show against Kengo Kimura & Kuniaki Kobayashi as an ECW tag title defense in Japan, however since booker Koshinaka decided Sabu & Taz were going down, the match almost surely won't air on ECW.

MARCH 6, 1995

No shows over the past weekend but ECW Arena on 2/25 has Shane Douglas vs. Marty Janetty for the ECW title, Mikey Whipwreck & Hack Myers vs. Paul Loria & Jason, Ian Rotten vs. Axl Rotten in a barbed wire baseball bat on a pole match (I told you this was IWA), Cactus Jack vs. mystery opponent and Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko challenging Sabu & Tazmaniac for the tag team titles plus Hector Guerrero and Too Cold Scorpio underneath.

At an autograph session in Durham, NC to promote a Gold's Gym he's opening, Ric Flair was asked about Shane Douglas and said he's a young man who is a school teacher as his primary profession and that he remembers when he was young and trying to make a name for himself in wrestling and that you do whatever you can to make a name. Douglas was apparently offered an audition to do the color on Monday Night Raw.

MARCH 7, 1995

The 2/25 ECW Arena show in Philadelphia before a turnaway crowd of 1,150 (the actual largest crowd ever) and was said to have been perhaps the best show in the history of the promotion from start-to-finish. The highlight was the return of Terry Funk in a surprise run-in to start a feud with Cactus Jack. The idea behind this is that Funk and Jack are doing a major match, which I believe will be a hair vs. hair match, at the Kawasaki Baseball Stadium (same building that Onita has his big show at) in August and both want to constantly be in the Japanese mags from now until then with grudge match photos and they only have limited simultaneous Japan dates so ECW big shows, which are well-covered in the Japanese magazines, will help keep the feud going before the fans there. Cactus was wrestling Sandman's mystery wrestler who turned out to be D.C. Drake. Cactus won an uneventful match when he started brawling afterwards with Sandman. They brawled into a big box and then out of the box with Funk, dressed in the same pants and boots as Sandman but with a cloth over his head brawling with Cactus. Finally the cloth came off revealing Funk. At this point Funk & Sandman destroyed Cactus and everyone else who tried to help him. Finally Tommy Dreamer ran in for the save. Funk started slapping Dreamer (Dreamer was Funk's protege when Funk last appeared here) and Sandman ended up hitting him with the cane and they destroyed Dreamer and went back on Cactus. It wound up with Cactus screaming for someone to help him and Shane Douglas came out. They did a long tease with Woman saying she'd make a trio of Douglas, Funk and Sandman bigger than the Four Horseman ever were and finally Douglas accepting her offer, than immediately turning on her and making the save with the title belt to set up

3/18 which will be Funk & Sandman vs. Cactus & Douglas. The deal in the storyline, which is based on reality, is that even though Cactus is a face and Douglas a heel although the lines here are blurred anyway, that they are best friends dating back from when they attended wrestling school together in Pittsburgh. In post-match interviews, Funk got on Douglas for what he did with the NWA title belt and Jack got on Funk for no-showing as his tag team partner several months back among other things.

Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko won the ECW tag titles from Sabu & Tazmaniac in a ****1/2 match which was said to have been the best ECW match in a long time due to Benoit and Sabu. One correspondent said that Benoit in this match established himself as without a doubt the best wrestler ever to appear in the ECW Arena, which is quite a compliment considering Funk and Sabu have been regulars. Taz was injured leaving it a 2-on-1 on Sabu, and Benoit ended up on a table on the top rope doing a power bomb into the ring with Sabu and scoring a clean pin. Before the match, Public Enemy came out with Rocco Rock in a wheelchair and Benoit grabbed the wheelchair and threw him into the guard rail and he took a bump out of the chair. With Benoit and Sabu in Japan for the next show, they are building to a three-team triangle match on 4/15. Expect Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls on 3/18. Douglas retained the title pinning Marty Janetty in a very strong match. Ian Rotten beat Axl Rotten in the bloodiest match in ECW history--a baseball bat barbed wire match. Their match the previous month was borderline sickening and this one crossed the line, although from a work standpoint heard it was excellent. On 3/18 expect a match where both men glue broken glass to their hands. That sound way over the edge. Paul Lauria & Jason beat Mikey Whipwreck & Hack Myers when Myers was pinned due to outside interference of Lauria's masked bodyguard, who was Crash the Terminator on this show but from a storyline standpoint isn't. The other angle saw Raven (Scott Levy/Johnny Polo) come out with Steve Richards, introducing a new tag team of the Broad Street Bullies, Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body, who got no reaction. Dreamer came out and beat up Richards, Stetson and Hot Body before doing a stare-down with Raven to set up their 3/18 match. There were chants of "SuperBrawl sucks" which TV announcer Joey Styles actually indirectly got started and "Hogan sucks" during the card.

2/24 show in Kennett Square, PA which drew 225 was said to be nothing special, with Benoit & Malenko over Cactus & Whipwreck in the best match on the show and Douglas keeping the title pinning Hector Guerrero in a good match.

The house show on 3/4 at Cheyney College in Pennsylvania was canceled, but the 3/3 house show in Northeastern Philadelphia is still on.

MARCH 13, 1995

Only show over the past week was 3/3 in Northeastern Philadelphia at the Catholic High drawing 292 fans with Shane Douglas over Tully Blanchard on top. Blanchard didn't want to do a pin finish and instead wanted a DQ but Paul Heyman wants to build the company around all pin, submission or time limit draw finishes. Eventually Blanchard acquiesced although that also may have wound up being his final match for the group.

The 3/4 show was apparently canceled because the Cheyney College NAACP, which booked the show, apparently never

confirmed booking the building so they had a show but no place to put the show.

Nothing new at press time on the 3/18 show although the match with Axl Rotten vs. Ian Rotten won't be where both men put glue and glue broken glass to their fists. They eventually will be doing that match, maybe around May or June, billed as a Taipei Death match. For those traveling and want to make plans, upcoming ECW Arena dates after 3/18 are 4/15, 5/13 (which is a good bet for the triangular tag team match with Public Enemy, Sabu & Tazmaniac and Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko since Benoit has Japan commitments on 3/18 and 4/15) and 6/17 although all of this is not etched in stone. Good bet that Funk vs. Jack in a singles match will headline 4/15.

The Funk/Sandman/Cactus angle aired on television this past week and was one of the best angles in ECW history.

The television this week is scheduled to air the Benoit & Malenko vs. Sabu & Tazmaniac tag match that everyone is raving about.

The television show two weeks back featured approximately a 30:00 long interview with Douglas opening the show. Douglas tried to get over the storyline that the wrestling business was dying because of the entertainers that had taken over the sport until ECW and himself revived the business. He did another rip job on Ric Flair basically intimating that when Flair was booker of WCW in 1989/90 that he held Douglas down because he knew he had potential. Douglas' delivery was great and to a point I thought the interview was great but after 20:00 it was overkill. The Flair rips don't hold up from a storyline standpoint because Flair is no longer the focal point of WCW, so it's like this group's champion is spending so much time challenging someone who isn't the top guy anymore of a rival promotion. If Flair held the WCW title, it would be another story because ECW is playing to an audience that largely hates WWF and WCW so the fans watching get off on all the rips of the other organizations.

Tod Gordon sent a threatening legal letter to rival promoter Dennis Coraluzzo claiming Coraluzzo slandered him and interfered with his business by contacting people ECW had dates with and showing tapes of the wildness on TV and trying to talk them into giving him the dates.

MARCH 20, 1995

No shows this past week.

3/18 at the ECW Arena has Shane Douglas & Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk & Sandman, Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls, Tommy Dreamer in what is billed as a Generation X match against Tony Stetson, Johnny Hot Body, Steve Richards and Raven (Johnny Polo), Sabu vs. Marty Jannetty, Hack Myers vs. Paul Lauria, Mikey Whipwreck vs. Jason and Axl Rotten vs. Ian Rotten in a strap match and yes it is no coincidence that ECW is putting on a strap match the day before WCW does on its PPV show. I'm not sure what the rules of the Generation X match are other than I believe Dreamer takes them on one at a time and probably will beat Stetson, then Hot Body, then Richards, but never get a fair shake at the end against Raven to keep that issue going.

3/17 in Jim Thorpe (the only city in America named after a former pro wrestler), PA has Douglas defending his title

against Dreamer, Public Enemy vs. Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio, Dean Malenko vs. Tazmaniac for the TV title and Cactus Jack vs. Sandman in falls count anywhere.

The Comfort Inn by the airport, which has been pretty much the unofficial headquarters for ECW for its Philadelphia house shows and where Tod Gordon had an excellent working relationship with, is no longer allowing the wrestlers to stay there after a series of disturbances stemming from the last show.

ECW will be moved to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday nights starting in April on the Sunshine Network.

ECW returns to Florida 5/5 to 5/7.

They'll also be doing joint shows with American Commonwealth Wrestling. On 3/18 in a 1 p.m. show in Princess Anne, MD at the Tawes Memorial Gym has Douglas defending against Taz, Cactus Jack vs. Morgus the Maniac, Simmons & Scorpio vs. Dino Casanova & Romeo Valentine, Axl vs. Ian and Dreamer vs. Raven. 4/28 in Cocolamus, PA has Cactus, Funk, Sabu, Public Enemy and Simmons.

MARCH 27, 1995

Results from the 3/18 show at the ECW Arena before a sellout 1,100 fans: 1. Mikey Whipwreck pinned Jason in 8:31 with a Frankensteiner off the top rope in a good opener; 2. Ron Simmons destroyed Hack Myers in 2:51. After the match Simmons challenged Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Shane Douglas and made fun of Tully Blanchard (who is no longer with the promotion) and finally challenged 911. Of course 911 came out and Simmons got the jump on him and knocked him around including giving him a sidewalk slam, but 911 made a comeback with two choke slams and left Simmons laying. Two job guys came in to help Simmons up and he attacked them and beat them both up and challenged 911 to a match; 3. Tommy Dreamer first pinned Tony Stetson, then Johnny Hot Body, then Steve Richards, giving him the match with Raven (Johnny Polo). The other three guys that weren't wrestling Dreamer were handcuffed at ringside. Terry Funk came out and unlocked all the heels and they destroyed Dreamer, who bled an incredible sickening amount and Raven easily pinned him. Dreamer did a stretcher job; 4. Too Cold Scorpio pinned Dean Malenko to win the ECW TV title in a match described as disappointing; 5. Axl Rotten pinned Ian Rotten in a strap match with fans chanting "Hogan sux" during much of the match; 6. Public Enemy pinned Pit Bulls in another wild brawl all over the arena with fans handing Public Enemy all sorts of foreign objects to use on the Pit Bulls and Jason; 7. Marty Jannetty missed the show, apparently for reasons not his fault (supposedly his flight was canceled) since nobody bad-mouthed him and Whipwreck came out and had the match of his career against Sabu before losing. Fans gave the bout a standing O and Sabu raised Whipwreck's hand Japanese style after the match. A lot of people thought this was the best match on the card. It got real weird after this. Sabu & Paul E. started challenging anyone (which they did before the match as well when it was announced Jannetty wouldn't appear) and the fans began chanting "212" for a regular fan who weighs about 400 pounds. It ended up in a situation that could have been disastrous on several accounts as the fans chanted for the fan to fight Sabu and he went to ringside. Versions of the story differ at this point but either Sabu threw a hard kick at the fan, which didn't even stun him, or the fan grabbed Sabu's leg. Tazmaniac came to ringside and 911, who are both very tough

guys, was also there ready in case the fan hopped the rail. Really nothing else happened as security calmed the fan down although Paul E. was throwing major insults his way, other than Tod Gordon after the dust cleared brought the fan into the ring and gave him some merchandise but Sabu wanted to do a run-in on him although not actually make contact and did leave the dressing room. The whole situation took something like 15 minutes and was described as surreal and could have killed a lesser show. It's weird because the audience was actually encouraging it and to a lesser extent so was Paul E., and if the fan was a little more aggressive if he and 911 (Al Poling) had gotten into it, obviously 911 may have clocked him but if he couldn't, and he certainly isn't going to be able to choke slam a guy that big without cooperation, they'd destroy his gimmick, not to mention hurting Sabu if by some chance he couldn't take out a fan, albeit a very large fan; 8. Sandman & Terry Funk beat Cactus Jack & Shane Douglas when Funk pinned Jack after hitting him with a branding iron on fire. Early in the match Douglas got the cane from Sandman and hit everyone, including Jack with it and at one point Douglas walked out on Jack, but returned later to save him.

They are going to run both 4/8 and 4/15 at the ECW Arena. The 4/8 show will probably be the biggest show in the promotion's history with "The Three Way Dance," a triangular tag team match for the titles with Public Enemy, Sabu & Taz and Benoit & Malenko, plus Douglas vs. Sandman for ECW title, Scorpio vs. Eddy Guerrero for ECW TV title, 911 vs. Simmons, Raven vs. Dreamer and Ian vs. Axl in a hair vs. hair match. 4/15 will be headlined by Funk vs. Cactus plus several returns set up on the 4/8 show including most likely the Taipei Death match with Ian vs. Axl while most likely 5/13 will be headlined by Sabu vs. Benoit in a singles match. Because 4/8 will probably sellout in advance, for those out of town interested in tickets, you should call 215-928-9772 for reservations.

Although this wasn't an ECW show, the afternoon of the arena show, a crew consisting almost exclusively of ECW wrestlers under the American Commonwealth banner drew less than 100 fans in Princess Anne, MD. Shane Douglas defending against Tazmaniac was the headliner scheduled but Douglas wound up in the corner of Dean Malenko who worked the match instead.

APRIL 10, 1995

ECW on 4/22 at Welsh Valley Middle School in Penn Valley, PA has Cactus Jack vs. Sabu and Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls falls count anywhere.

APRIL 17, 1995

The Sabu (Terry Brunk) situation in ECW came to a head this past week with the end result being the promotion fired him for no-showing the 4/8 "Three Way Dance."

It had become well known within wrestling that New Japan had booked Sabu for a Heisei Ishingun show the same day at Korakuen Hall. ECW booker Paul Heyman said they gave Sabu the 4/8 date on 3/20 when he decided to add the 4/8 show because the original "Three Way Dance" date on 4/15 had to be changed because Chris Benoit was booked in Japan on that date. Heyman had been wanting to put together the three-way since Christmas but a botched angle at one show combined with schedule conflicts combined with wanting to build to it correctly kept pushing the match back. The date was

added for 4/8 because it was the only possible date to at that point assure that all six would be available. New Japan reportedly gave Sabu the 4/8 date on 3/21 when he came in for the HI show in Osaka. Sabu apparently told both groups he would appear on their shows saying because of the time difference, he'd do the Japan date and immediately fly in, but that's a physical impossibility.

Sabu said New Japan at that point gave him single specific dates for 4/8 and 4/28 to build leading to the 5/3 Fukuoka Dome where he would get a shot at the IWGP junior heavyweight title. He said he was already booked for 4/8 with ECW and he was asked to get out of it. He called Heyman who insisted he'd make the date so when he got back to New Japan telling them he couldn't make it, they said (booker) Riki Choshu had already been told he was on the card and that if he didn't make the date, they'd cancel his bookings (fire him). He felt after ten years in wrestling and at his current age (31), his prime is now and it would be embarrassing to lose his New Japan job, particularly after he left FMW which gave him his first career break for the New Japan job. He felt that by getting on the plane and going to Japan on Thursday that by doing so in his mind it meant he was quitting ECW. While admitting he screwed up in double-booking himself, he was bitter about how it was handled by Heyman at the arena on Saturday.

Where the heat stems from according to Heyman is that on 4/2, Heyman talked with Sabu while he was putting together his final television show which aired on 4/4, leading to the 4/8 show, wanting a commitment from Sabu to be there or else he'd change the television show and get a replacement for him because he didn't want to false advertise. Sabu reportedly assured both Heyman and Tod Gordon that he was going to make their date and not to worry about it. Gordon claimed he had talked to Sabu later in the week again and believed he was going to be at his show even though it appeared to be common knowledge in Japan that Sabu was going to miss the ECW date. It wasn't until Thursday morning, when he called Sabu, that he got his answering machine with a message he had left for Japan that he realized differently. To Gordon's credit, he immediately put out word that Sabu wasn't going to appear on the show. The bitterness is that Sabu never called Gordon or Heyman before leaving for Japan to tell him of his decision, and that they found out by getting a message on his answering machine two days before what they considered the biggest show in the history of their company. Sabu said he agreed to work the ECW in the 4/2 phone conversation only because Heyman wouldn't let him off the phone until he agreed and he was agreeing to work the date only to get Heyman off the phone. He said the words "swear to God" in reference to him being there were used by Heyman and he didn't use those words, just said "Yes" when Heyman said something to the effect of "Do you swear to God you'll be at the show?"

"I said yes to get him off the phone and I told him that before I went to Japan," Sabu said.

Heyman immediately contacted Rick Steiner to come in as Sabu's replacement for the show and was put in a position because Sabu hadn't even called where he had little choice but to fire Sabu, even though Sabu was probably the top drawing singles wrestler in the company.

"He gave me his word so I built the TV show around it (the three-way dance match)," said Heyman. "He left me with no other options regarding him and that's really a shame. But I have no choice. If I let this go, I have no control of my dressing

room. I lose control of my dressing room and once that happens, the ballgame is over."

At the show, Heyman opened giving a long speech about how hard everyone in ECW works and mentioned several people by their real names such as himself as Paul Heyman and Woman as Nancy Sullivan. He said there was a problem with Sabu saying, "Sabu gave us a commitment and then decided that because he was offered more money on a weekly basis, he will not give you what you paid to see, and decided not to give me the courtesy of a phone call when he swore to God on Sunday night that before we all went into production to give you that Tuesday night TV show that if you are going to f*** the audience because you are the star in this promotion, to let me know, and he said, 'I'll be there.' Then on Thursday he tells me and Taz and 911 and anyone who would call his answering machine that he is on his way to Japan. You people, the audience of ECW and all the stars within have been f***ed and were deemed not important enough to see performed a match that you have been waiting since Christmas for. You voted with your dollars to see him and Sabu decided to go to Japan." At this point a "F*** Sabu" chant began in the building. Heyman responded by saying, "I got news for you, you're right, f*** him. The only way he is gonna walk his miserable ass back in that door anymore is if you people say, 'We forgive him.'" At this point people started swearing at Sabu like crazy and Heyman said, "I'll bring him back if you say so," and the crowd started the F*** Sabu chant once again. "I want to get this show started so on behalf of Tod Gordon and every single wrestler who is going to bust his ass tonight to give you more than your money's worth, here is the offer from all of us. We have something in mind. If you're upset about Sabu, we want you to watch the first half of the show on us. At intermission, go to the front door and get a refund."

At some point during almost every match and during much of the main event, the F*** Sabu chants returned. Based on numerous phone calls here, this may polarize a lot of the fans with each other because several were mad at the other fans about the chants because of how hard Sabu had worked in the building previously. Others, particularly after the show because the three-way match, while generally considered a good match, fell well below most expectations of something extraordinary, were already talking about wanting Sabu to return. It's expected that Sabu will start working in the tri-state area for rival promoter Dennis Coraluzzo.

Sabu felt at this point in his career he needed to do the right thing for security which meant keeping his job with New Japan. He also admitted he's been unhappy with the current direction of ECW, in particular undercard wrestlers using juice and chairs and brawling all over the building feeling it detracts from when the main eventers do the same thing, and also other wrestlers putting wrestlers through tables which he felt was his personal gimmick. He also felt he was being used too often in tag team matches where he felt he was only 25% as effective as in singles. He said he'd worked there only for the money since the show where he and Tazmaniac came out for a tag match in double gurneys and since that show had refused to do the gurney gimmick.

"The last five or six months, the direction of ECW I didn't like anymore," he said. "Paul knows it. I'd tell him what I didn't like."

He also felt there was prestige in working for New Japan, but none in working in ECW, calling it a b.s. style of wrestling, and said that he had a vision of what he wanted pro wrestling to be

and ECW wasn't it and wasn't going to be it. He said WWF came even closer than ECW to his vision but they weren't it either and that New Japan and All Japan come the closest, in that they treat pro wrestling as a competitive sport with clean finishes using finishing moves rather than as exhibitions.

"You don't need a chair to get over (to win a match) and you don't need a f*** to get over. I like clean finishes. It dates back to being an amateur wrestler. I don't like getting beat but the day comes when you have to. In ECW, everything is an angle. New Japan, they're all competitive matches."

He had already at one point turned down a two-week New Japan tour in which the company had agreed to give him three weeks pay for working two, but he had already made two prior commitments (an ECW date and a Las Vegas date) during that two-week period and wouldn't cancel them and New Japan didn't like the idea of him missing a tour because of what they considered two small-time bookings and told him that he and ECW were too difficult for them to deal with.

He claimed that what he did was wrong, but what Heyman did at the show by burying him was more wrong. He did praise Heyman for his work ethic. He said he felt Heyman made it a bigger issue than it was and could have handled it with the crowd in a way that would have allowed him to save face.

"He rubbed my face in the mat and the people turned on me. But I did it and I'll take my lumps."

He said he wouldn't rule out an eventual return to ECW, but talked about now accepting part-time work on PPV shows with WCW since it wouldn't interfere with New Japan. In January, Eric Bischoff met Sabu at the Tokyo Dome and verbally offered to use him on PPV shows and some house shows when it didn't interfere with New Japan and said they'd let him work indies as well, but when Sabu told Heyman about it, Heyman insisted Sabu not go to WCW because he wanted to build a company around people who were not working any dates for either WWF or WCW.

The ECW show itself, which drew a packed house of approximately 1,150, was considered good by everyone calling here, although not as good as the previous two shows. Public Enemy wound up with the ECW tag team titles winning the three-way dance over Steiner & Tazmaniac and Dean Malenko & Benoit, while Eddy Guerrero captured the TV title beating Too Cold Scorpio. Guerrero was over strong with the crowd the moment he came out with lots of "Gringo Locos" and "Rudos" and "Eddy" chants. In the other key angle, Woman turned on Sandman, going with his opponent, Shane Douglas by throwing him the cane which he used for the pin.

Sabu, who went to a double count out with WAR International junior heavyweight champion Gedo in the second match of the HI show on 4/8, but broke his already injured ankle and was headed to the hospital on 4/11, but still expected to work on 4/13 in Indianapolis. He reportedly earns between \$3,000 and \$4,000 per week with New Japan (if they fly him in for one date as in this case, he makes one weeks worth of pay and through May all of his New Japan dates are single night shots) or HI, and at most makes \$750 per shot in ECW and I believe his actual price in ECW may be significantly less.

Aside from the Sabu situation, also on the 4/8 show saw the Pit Bulls, now managed by Raven, beat Johnny Hot Body & Tony

Stetson. Raven & Steve Richards claimed that Hot Body & Stetson had failed them on the last show by losing to Tommy Dreamer. Raven replaced Jason (Knight) who was fired by the promotion for walking out on promos among other things, although I wouldn't be shocked to see him back in a few months. Raven then punched Richards after the match when Pit Bulls said that they liked him but not Richards. Raven beat Dreamer next. Raven bled like crazy. Richards attacked a girl at ringside and Dreamer comes out to save the girl and she hair sprays him in the face and Raven DDTs him for the pin. This is some sort of an angle supposedly that in the past Raven and Dreamer were chasing the same girl in summer camp or that the girl was chasing Dreamer and he ignored her. Ron Simmons destroyed Mikey Whipwreck but got DQ'd in the process for choke slamming the ref. Simmons also did two choke slams on Whipwreck. This naturally brought out 911 but this time Simmons choke slammed 911 and left him laying. Five jobbers came out to help 911 and naturally he recovered and choke slammed all five of them. Next up was an angle where Chris Benoit kept calling Sabu a "pussy" and called out Tazmaniac. They went at it until Dean Malenko ran in until Rick Steiner made the save so everyone knew who the replacement would be before intermission. Guerrero pinned Scorpio in what I was told was the best match on the show. Axl Rotten beat Ian Rotten in the hair vs. hair match but after the match Ian got the scissors and bloodied up Axl with them. Shane Douglas beat Sandman in a non-title match when Woman threw the cane to Douglas and turned on Sandman. After the three-way match with Public Enemy winning, Pit Bulls did a run-in to attack them.

All we've got at this point for 4/15 is Terry Funk vs. Cactus Jack, 911 vs. Ron Simmons, Pit Bulls vs. Public Enemy in some sort of a gimmick match (either a baseball bat match or a dog collar match), Douglas vs. Sandman for the ECW title and more.

TV has continued to be excellent the past few weeks.

APRIL 24, 1995

For the second straight week, Saturday night happenings at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia made headlines.

After the controversy regarding Sabu's being fired and given a unique show-long burial by both the promotions and the fans had just started to dissipate, along came another unique situation involving Shane Douglas.

Douglas (Troy Martin) dropped his ECW title to The Sandman (James Fullington) on 4/15 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia when Woman, who had turned on Sandman last week to help Douglas win, turned back on Douglas allowing Sandman to capture the title. After the match Douglas put on a Monday Night Raw t-shirt and said he was going to a place where they do real wrestling, and walked out the front door. Douglas on Monday told those who called that he is headed to the WWF. However, the incident in its entirety is scheduled to air on this week's ECW television. We've had confirmed that virtually the entire scenario, save Douglas putting on the Monday Night Raw t-shirt, which nobody knew about in advance, was an angle. ECW was under the assumption when television was put together that Douglas is still with the promotion and angles involving Douglas for the future were being formulated at least as late as Monday night. They were also aware his talks with WWF had grown more serious of late but the root of what happened was pure angle.

The Sabu situation seemed to take on a life of its own this past week. As speculated on here, Sabu has reopened business relations with Dennis Coraluzzo, the New Jersey based NWA promoter who has had a long-time behind-the-scenes and sometimes public feud with ECW. He has also entered into serious discussions with Eric Bischoff about working for WCW although his prime focus would remain New Japan. Sabu's long time goal has been and still is to be like his uncle, The Sheik, and run a regular territory based out of Michigan. He's reopening as a promoter with Coraluzzo and Phyllis Lee starting with a 5/19 show in Kalamazoo using himself and Severn as the top stars. He knows that he needs national television exposure to the masses to get himself over as the star he would build the company around feeling his mistake thus far has been that attempting to run a business with only a hardcore cult following equals financial disaster. WWF on the surface would seem like the best alternative, but since WWF has only expressed interest in him if he would change his name and gimmick and doesn't allow its wrestlers to work Japan, WCW, which has a relationship already with New Japan, becomes the prime choice. Some have even written that the Sabu/ECW situation is an angle to fool ECW fans, but I can assure that is not the case unless by a work (ie lie; work is what you do in wrestling matches, outside the ring "work" doesn't exist, there is only lying with the word "work" used to somehow justify it) one means that Sabu worked ECW by not calling them and letting them know in advance he wasn't going to make the show. ECW even had to cancel a spot show this week because it was headlined by Sabu vs. Cactus Jack and they were unable to get a Sabu-calibre replacement and decided they didn't want to follow in the footsteps of promoters who cavalierly false advertise and come up with unsuitable replacements.

On the ECW's television show this week, Tod Gordon made a brief statement that Sabu was suspended and Sabu was removed from the show's open. However, the chants of "F*** Sabu" were evident throughout the show, some have claimed even in spots where they didn't actually occur in the building. At the 4/15 house show, only at one point were there those chants and they died down quickly.

Sabu and ECW booker Paul Heyman talked on 4/11 for the first time since this all went down, basically coming to an agreement that neither would bury the other anymore. The business relationship may be reopened at some point provided Sabu doesn't reach a relationship with WCW. There was legit heat on both sides based on what has gone down this past week. Sabu was mad about how the situation was handled in the building. Heyman was mad about Sabu's comments particularly regarding clean finishes, pointing out Sabu, who talked about believing in clean finishes, had just three weeks earlier refused to put Chris Benoit over on the 3/21 HI show in Osaka. Some ECW wrestlers were mad about his knocks on the promotion. Some ECW fans were mad about his knocks on the promotion. Other ECW fans were mad at ECW fans for the chants at the previous show.

It's an inarguable point that Sabu was wrong in not letting ECW know he wasn't going to make the show. Sabu won't even argue it. Whether he was wrong in taking the New Japan date after agreeing first to the ECW date is not as clear cut. While there are exceptions to this rule, the vast majority in wrestling in the same situation with a payday of an estimated \$3,500 for one show and maybe \$500 or so for the other would have chosen the \$3,500 even if they had already made a prior agreement. Certainly if you throw in the risk of losing ones job with the company that offers more financial benefits and

stability, it throws the decision making process even farther to that direction. A person whose word is his bond to the bitter end makes the other decision, but a person who is a businessman in this profession makes the decision Sabu made. The majority hopefully would have been more up front about it but Paul Heyman can be a mentally intimidating individual. ECW deserves credit for being far more honest with their fans in regard to the situation than WWF, WCW and SMW have proven to be in similar situations. Heyman pretty well told the truth in the ring. It was a bombastic version of the truth, but he can be a bombastic individual. Whether, as the 4/8 show continued, the company or at least Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko went overboard in either playing to the fans in regard to the Sabu chants or inciting those chants is another matter. Certainly that wouldn't have occurred in most other offices although it is something Bill Watts or Verne Gagne would have done in the same situation although not to the same degree and it did fit into the framework of the storyline being they were the wrestlers feuding with him.

Fans have the right to do and yell and scream whatever they please so long as they don't get violent or excessively vulgar (since the latter would interfere with some people's enjoyment of the show to an unnecessary degree). They did get vulgar, but I think it's pretty well understood that unlike in other arenas, due to the uniqueness of the environment and the promotion, that is acceptable behavior at the ECW Arena. But I can't help but look at the situation this way. Sabu worked that building a night or two after cracking his ribs on the guard rail against Cactus Jack in Hamburg when by all rights he had no business in the ring. Sabu worked that building with a neck brace two weeks after spending the night in the hospital because he took a bump on his head against Chris Benoit. He worked it with an infected hand from an injury in Japan. He worked a television match in Florida the night after blowing out his ankle in California. He worked harder and did more than anyone has the right to expect a performer to do to the point of being psychotic at times. He was a prime factor in putting an 800-seat Bingo Hall on the map internationally as second only to Madison Square Garden when it comes to coverage in the United States. And because Sabu didn't tell Heyman or Gordon he wasn't going to appear on 4/8, he, inarguably, for one night ripped off the fans of ECW. The fans had the perfect right to be mad on that night. But given all that, maybe they owed him one.

APRIL 24, 1995

Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko tore down the house at the 4/15 show before about 1,000 fans with a 30:00 (which actually lasted 25:57) draw that many are saying was the best match in the history of the promotion. Show rundown went as follows: 1. Mikey Whipwreck, with Hack Myers in his corner, pinned Steve Richards, with Raven in his corner. After the match both seconds got involved, which led to Pit Bulls doing a run-in and Public Enemy making the save. Public Enemy then picked Myers' pocket and got on the house mic saying they made the save to get the wallet but opened the wallet which only had \$2 in it and they freaked out; 2. Tsubo Genjin, a short Japanese wrestler for PWFG (not to be confused with Michinoku Pro wrestler Yone Genjin, who most confused him with since both look alike and do the same gimmick) who does a Missing Link gimmick, pinned Tony Stetson in a terrible match. Genjin was in because a Japanese film crew was doing a movie that he's in and they wanted shots of him going over in the ECW Arena; 3. Axl Rotten came out with a garbage can filled with gimmicks for a fans choice gimmick match with Ian Rotten. He asked pulled out one gimmick at a time. He asked fans if they wanted

a strap match and they booed. If they wanted an I Quit match and they booed. If they wanted a baseball bat and they booed. He pulled out a barbed wire baseball bat and they cheered. Then he said he wanted a Bad Breed death match where everything in the garbage can would be legal which got the biggest cheers. Total bloodbath of course. Axl was wrapped up in barbed wire. Ian put a garbage can over his head and hit the can with a bat. Ian wound up winning this time; 4. Raven beat Tommy Dreamer via DQ when Dreamer went nuts and DDT'd Raven, Richards and the referee. After the match Raven's valet, Beulah McGillicutty, who was wearing a short dress, was given a piledriver with her dress falling down over her face; 5. Guerrero drew Malenko. The only problem here is that a few fans chanted "We Want Blood" which brought a loud chant back of "Shut the F*** up" and the situation nearly got ugly with security having to get involved. This match will air in its entirety on television in a few weeks; Genjin came back out for an interview. Paul E. Dangerously made a comment about Genjin stealing Tazmaniac's gimmick and about becoming a surrogate for an ex-ECW wrestler who chose Japan over ECW which is where the chant started briefly. Taz suplexed the guy twice and 911 choke slammed him. 911 was noticeably less over this week than before; 6. Sandman pinned Douglas in 7:28 to win the title. Douglas had Sandman in a chicken wing when Woman turned on Douglas by hitting him in the leg with the cane. Douglas held onto the hold but fell on his back and the ref counted three; 7. Public Enemy retained ECW tag title over Pit Bulls in 18:02 of a quadruple juice match. They brawled all over using frying pans, toilet seats, soda cans and a toaster; 8. 911 pinned Ron Simmons in 5:31. Apparently it was a little too long because 911 exposed himself to the point where there were "911 sux" chants and boos, particularly after a clumsy legdrop, although Simmons did a good job of carrying him; 9. Cactus Jack pinned Terry Funk. These guys went all out even though both are really messed up physically. Funk has a bulging disc in his back (same injury that ended the career of Rick Rude). Crazy bumps and heavy juice. Funk hit Jack over the head three times with a legit beer bottle before it would break. He broke two more bottles on the post and started carving up Jack's arm and ear with the jagged edges. Jack rolled-up Funk off the spinning toe hold. Sandman ran in and started hitting Jack with the stick and poured fire starter on him. Funk came out with a flaming branding iron and blew fire on him after the match.

Shows booked 5/5 in Ft. Lauderdale and 5/6 in Tampa at the Fairgrounds and return to Philadelphia is 5/13.

They are doing an outdoor show on 6/30 in Scranton at Lackawanna Stadium (Cactus Jack vs. Terry Funk in a gimmick match on top) and a 7/1 show at the Arena. There will be a convention based around those dates and for more info you can contact Dave Scherer at P.O. Box 612, Marmora, NJ 08223.

The main reason ECW doesn't move its Philadelphia shows to Penn Hall (4,000 seats) is because, besides an increase in rent and other expenses, it costs \$5,000 rights fee to videotape from the building.

Guerrero vs. Scorpio aired on television this past week and topped ****. I've seen Scorpio in matches where he does more high flying, but I've never seen him work a better match and Guerrero was, if anything, even better than usual. Now that he's working in the U.S., he's one of the three best workers in the country along with Benoit and Michaels.

At the 4/14 show in Jim Thorpe, PA, they shot an angle where Public Enemy was getting an award from Doug Flex from a local bar and Pit Bulls and Richards did a run-in resulting in Flex juicing to set up a six man at on 5/20.

MAY 1, 1995

It was pretty obvious the Shane Douglas deal was an angle the way it played on television. The angle they are doing right now is Sandman will be defending the title in Florida against Cactus Jack and that Cactus Jack is Douglas' best friend.

Upcoming shows are 4/28 in Mifflintown, PA with Terry Funk vs. Cactus, Douglas vs. Ron Simmons, Tazmaniac vs. Dean Malenko, Marty Jannetty vs. Jim Neidhart, Tommy Dreamer vs. Raven, Public Enemy defending tag title against Pit Bulls and Sandman vs. Mikey Whipwreck; 4/29 in Dover, DE with Funk vs. Cactus, Douglas vs. Jannetty, Neidhart vs. Simmons, Ian Rotten vs. Axl Rotten in barbed wire baseball bat match, Public Enemy defends against Pit Bulls, Tazmaniac vs. Malenko and Sandman vs. Dreamer. Eddy Guerrero works underneath on both shows.

5/5 in Fort Lauderdale is Sandman vs. Cactus for the title, Public Enemy defends against Pit Bulls in a death match, Axl vs. Ian in a barbed wire baseball bat match, Douglas vs. Whipwreck, Dreamer vs. Raven and Chris Benoit & Malenko vs. Too Cold Scorpio & Norman Smiley.

5/6 in Tampa has Sandman vs. Cactus with Douglas referee for the title, Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls in a double dog collar match for the tag title, Dreamer vs. Raven, Benoit & Malenko vs. Scorpio & Smiley, Ian vs. Axl in a barbed wire baseball bat match, Whipwreck vs. Paul Lauria, Simmons vs. Jannetty and Joe Malenko underneath.

MAY 8, 1995

They ran shows on 4/28 in Mifflintown, PA and 4/29 in Dover, DE over the weekend drawing 185 and 375 respectively. Shane Douglas was injured the second night in a match with Marty Jannetty. It was a throat injury, originally believed to be a crushed larynx but he's just a little bruised up and will be making the weekend shots in Fort Lauderdale and Tampa. The match ended just as Douglas got hurt and Jannetty beat him, which may have been a change of the planned finish. Douglas came out wearing a WWF t-shirt. If anything were to happen regarding Douglas and WWF, don't expect it until at least after the school year ends since Douglas isn't going to walk out on his job as a history teacher this close to the end of the year.

Jim Neidhart debuted over the weekend losing to Jannetty and Ron Simmons.

Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko tore the house down both nights in TV title matches with Guerrero winning the first night and them going the time limit in a ****1/4 the second night.

Cactus Jack over Terry Funk headlined both shows with Jack winning when Sandman's interference backfired.

5/20 in Langhorne, PA at Neshaminy High School has Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls in a double dog collar match, Sandman & Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer & Cactus in a death match,

Simmons vs. Too Cold Scorpio and Douglas vs. Mikey Whipwreck.

MAY 15, 1995

Don't be surprised to see major structural changes in the company within the next few weeks. Nothing has happened thus far officially although we do know that offers have been made to people to buy into the company although to the best of our knowledge that hasn't happened yet. Paul Heyman said none of this is a negative and that whatever changes will take place will result in being positive. Heyman wants to press hard for more expansion nationally as soon as possible because both he and the wrestlers are getting impatient and he feels if a move isn't made soon that he may start losing key members of his crew. Steve Karel, who is a bodybuilding head honcho (hence the bodybuilder-aimed advertising on the ECW TV show) and his Stonecutter Productions, which syndicates the television will have a far bigger role in the promotion when it comes to booking more arena dates.

ECW drew what may have been the largest crowd in its history on 5/5 in Fort Lauderdale drawing 1,200 fans. The Tampa show the next night drew 735. The negatives were security concerns both nights. In Fort Lauderdale, the show was nearly canceled that afternoon by the building because of fear of fan violence. At the door they confiscated two boxes full of frying pans, cookie trays, etc. During the show after the Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer match which went all over the place there were threats to shut the show down if anyone brawled outside the guard rail. They stayed within the barricades for the next two matches but Public Enemy and the Pit Bulls still wandered out. In Tampa, they had a chair throwing incident after the show ended with fans mimicking what they had seen during the show opening and on a previous show in South Florida which resulted in literally hundreds of chairs thrown into the ring and a building that presumably won't allow them back. Pit Bull Spike got a five-inch gash in the back of his head which some thought was from a chair thrown by a fan. Other than that, the shows were considered very successful as the crowds were up and people were into the action.

5/13 at the ECW Arena has Sandman defending the ECW title against Cactus Jack with the winner defending the title later that evening against Shane Douglas, Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls for the tag title in a double dog collar match and if PE wins, they get five minutes with Steve Richards, Eddy Guerrero defending the TV title against Dean Malenko, Tommy Dreamer & Luna Vachon vs. Raven & Richards, Chris Benoit vs. Marty Jannetty and more.

The major angle in Fort Lauderdale and repeated in Tampa was after the Raven-Dreamer match (which reportedly stole the show in Fort Lauderdale and was the second best match in Tampa), Richards and Raven beat up on Dreamer until Luna Vachon made the save and beat up on Richards both nights. There were four no-shows the first night as Shane Douglas' plane from Pittsburgh was held up and arrived late, Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio couldn't make it in from Atlanta (Scorpio missed the entire weekend) and Marty Jannetty's car broke down (legit as he was picked up at the gas station and driven in and arrived late in the show). All except Scorpio were there the next night. This probably changed the finish of the Cactus Jack vs. Sandman title match the first night since Douglas would have been involved in some way in the finish. Instead, Benoit & Malenko interfered causing Jack to lose. The next night, Douglas played heel ref and kept slow counting

when Jack had Sandman pinned. He finally DQ'd Jack for choking. I believe the storyline is probably something to the effect that Douglas wanted Sandman to hold the title because he figured Sandman would be easier to win the title from. Beforehand they had been doing an angle that Douglas and Cactus, even though Douglas is a heel and Jack a face, were best friends because they started out together many years ago at Dom DeNucci's wrestling school. Jack and Douglas nearly got into it but Benoit attacked Jack until 911 made the save. Before the match started in Tampa, they did a backstage angle where the two argued and Sandman hit Jack with the cane from behind during the argument and then Douglas decked Sandman.

. Norman Smiley debuted teaming with Mikey Whipwreck both nights losing to Benoit & Malenko. Smiley didn't look good either night. In Tampa, the crowd got hostile at the wrestlers every time they started going to the mat so it hurt the match.

The ECW TV show hasn't played on MSG cable in a few weeks but it should be back on in about three weeks.

MAY 22, 1995

Bill Alfonso doing a heel ref gimmick debuted on the 5/13 ECW Arena show doing a gimmick where he was sent down by the state athletic commission to make sure the rules of wrestling are enforced and if anyone were to hit him than the promotion would be shut down. Although it was a full house, the crowd was down to an estimated 875 this time out but the line-up on paper was weaker than previous shows this year. Chris Benoit missed the show because his wife was involved in an auto accident (legit) and had a bad ankle injury. Among the highlights were 911 & Tazmaniac as a tag team beating two small Japanese wrestlers, Tsubo Genjin & Hiroyoshi Iekuda (a Japanese wrestler living in Florida who I believe is a trainee of Pro Wrestling Fujiwara-Gumi but has never wrestled in Japan yet) when Taz suplexed both simultaneously and 911 choke-slammed both. After the match a small group of fans started chanting for Sabu and heckling Paul E. Dangerously which brought back the "F*** Sabu" chants. At this point Dangerously grabbed the mic and said that isn't ECW about letting fans cheer and chant whatever they want, and then came back with that those fans (who were cheering for Sabu) were the same assholes that booed Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko last month which brought more "F*** Sabu" chants. It's really amazing. The more things change, the more they stay the same. Some of these same fans reacting so negatively to the fans who "cheer the wrong way" were the same ones when they were eight or nine years younger booing the hell out of babyface Dusty Rhodes and cheering Ric Flair at the Civic Center. Then again, after seeing a tape of only the finish of Guerrero-Malenko, if you can't appreciate that, you can't be much of a wrestling fan. Then Axl Rotten did an interview saying that fans in Florida didn't like his matches there because they were too violent and people wanted to censor his matches there. He said that the fans in Florida were saying how the Philadelphia fans must be tired of Axl vs. Ian matches. Axl was carrying a barbed wire baseball bat with him, which of course was met with fans clamoring for a match so they wrestled in an unadvertised match which saw Ian bring in a chair wrapped in barbed wire. The crowd was really into it from the start stemming from the speech and they kept it short and bloody ending when Axl back suplexed Ian on the barbed wire chair for the pin. Raven & Steve Richards vs. Tommy Dreamer & Mikey Whipwreck was next with Shane Douglas bringing out Alfonso as special ref. Alfonso wouldn't allow any brawling and eventually DQ'd Dreamer for using a closed fist as against

wrestling rules. Dreamer threatened to punch Alfonso after the match and Alfonso dared him saying he'd shut down the promotion until Cactus Jack held him back. Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko went to another 30:00 draw. Before the match Guerrero made a speech about dedicated his career to Art Barr and came out wearing a Love Machine ring outfit. Guerrero tried a Frankensteiner off the top rope and on the way down cracked his head on Malenko's knee by accident and wound up bleeding hardway and suffered a concussion but still worked the second half of the match and even came back and worked a second match that night. Told it was around ***3/4, another great match but not quite on the level of last month's match. Sandman defending against Cactus Jack was next. Jack had Sandman pinned when Douglas hit the ring and distracted Jack. This allowed Sandman to get the cane and he gave Jack a low blow with the cane for the pin. Sandman took some psychotic bumps. Shane and Jack argued after the match but the other wrestlers ran out and kept them from coming to blows. It had been announced that the Guerrero-Malenko winner would replace Benoit against Marty Jannetty. Since it was a draw, they had Guerrero defend the title and he pinned Jannetty in a short match that was only average. After the match Malenko did a run-in attacking Guerrero until Jannetty saved Guerrero. Sandman then defended against Douglas. Douglas had Sandman set up for the belly-to-belly, but Sandman reversed it. Douglas had his foot on the ropes and the ref went for the count but Jack came out and knocked Douglas' foot off the ropes. Alfonso showed up and ordered the match to continue but the two refs (John Finnegan being the other) started arguing with each other until Finnegan gave Sandman the belt and he left with it. Malenko attacked Jack from behind and Dreamer came out for the save, which brought out Raven & Richards. Raven DDT'd Dreamer on a fan guard and Dreamer was stretchered out. Finally Public Enemy beat Pit Bulls in a double dog collar match which was filled with insane spots for more than 20:00 although I'm told little in the way of transitions or psychology. Rocco Rock did a moonsault outside the ring on a table (which started another set of "F*** Sabu" chants). Three-way juice. Rock was power bombed through a table off the top rope twice. Jumper cables were thrown in and Public Enemy used them on Pit Bulls' crotch. By virtue of winning, Public Enemy got 5:00 with Richards. Richards & Pit Bulls destroyed Public Enemy after the match and left them laying. Richards then demanded his 5:00 and beat on both but they started a comeback halfway through. At that point Pit Bulls and Raven showed up again and held PE while Richards gave them superkicks. Dreamer made the save followed by Luna Vachon. At some point Beula McGillicuddy jumped in and Dreamer set her up for a DDT but Luna demanded a piledriver (so of course the guys in the crowd could see her dress fall down and get the panties shot) and he did it again. The show ended with Dreamer and Luna kissing in the middle of the ring.

Nothing officially new organization wise. Paul Heyman (Dangerously) was handling payoffs instead of Tod Gordon. Gordon was there but said things were in transition. Those who got checks got them from HHG Corporation with no address as opposed to ECW. Heyman is trying to restructure things because he wants to run more house shows in other markets, New Orleans and Birmingham in particular and make more frequent Florida swings. There are reportedly significant outstanding bills.

The 6/30 show at Lackawanna Stadium in Scranton, PA was canceled because the stadium got new astroturf and the only way they would let ECW do the show was to put a tarp on the field to protect the turf (all of which would amount to a \$9,500

cost). ECW is attempting to get another stadium in the area for a ring surrounded by fire match with Cactus Jack and Terry Funk.

The TV started back on 5/14 on the MSG cable network and has upcoming plays on 5/22 and 5/29 both at 1 a.m. Sunshine Network in Florida is moving to two weekly plays, Thursday night at midnight and Saturday night at either midnight or 1 a.m.

Upcoming ECW Arena dates are 6/17 and 7/1. The latter, which will be the day after Funk's 51st birthday, is tentatively planned as Funk's final match in the U.S. for several months as he's badly bothered by a bulging disc in his lower back. He came back to ECW largely to keep his Japanese feud with Cactus Jack alive in the magazines since the two weren't on Japanese tours together match during this period.

This coming week will be 5/19 in Hazelton, PA, 5/20 afternoon in Jim Thorpe, PA and 5/20 evening in Langhorne, PA. Guerrero and Malenko do a two-of-three series for the TV title with one match on each show. Also in Hazelton will be Sandman defending against Cactus, Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls street fight for the belts, Douglas vs. Dreamer, Ron Simmons vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Jannetty vs. Raven, Whipwreck vs. Richards. Jim Thorpe has Public Enemy & Doug Flexus (local guy who did an angle in the building with them last time) vs. Pit Bulls & Richards, Sandman vs. Cactus for the title, Douglas vs. Scorpio, Tazmaniac vs. Raven. Langhorne has Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls double dog collar match for the belts, Sandman & Raven vs. Cactus & Dreamer in a death match, Simmons vs. Scorpio.

MAY 29, 1995

The three house shows over the weekend which drew between 200 and 300, featured three matches between Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko for the TV title, all of which were said to be in the ***1/2 range. Guerrero won the first match on 5/19 in Hazelton, PA, Malenko the second on 5/10 in Jim Thorpe, PA, and the third match went 26:46 to a 30:00 draw in Langhorne, PA so Guerrero kept the TV title. The third match was said to be not as good as the previous bouts as both guys were tired from doing long matches the night before and that afternoon, the crowd wasn't into it as much, but it was still a good match. There is talk they are building to a one hour marathon match with the most falls determining the winner sometime in the next few months.

Still nothing substantial other than an amazing amount of rumors regarding the status of company ownership. The fact Tod Gordon didn't attend any of the shows this weekend only added to the rumors. The HHG company which appears to be taking over is a Paul Heyman company as opposed to the old company which was headed by Gordon, Heyman and other minor partners. Heyman is wanting to make a move now with more frequent shows and touring to more parts of the country.

Next show is 6/9 at Drexel University in Philadelphia (call 215-590-8945 for more info) with Sandman defending the title against the winner of the Marty Jannetty vs. Too Cold Scorpio match, Raven & Steve Richards vs. Cactus Jack & Tommy Dreamer in a match where the college wrestling coach and Beulah McGillicutty, the woman who gets piledriven whenever there are TV cameras present, will be referees; Cactus vs. Axl Rotten; Pinfalls count anywhere baseball bats legal for tag title with Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls, Shane Douglas vs. Tazmaniac

and more. Only other show on the books in June thus far is 6/17 at ECW Arena with no matches announced.

The actual attendance at the 5/5 show in Fort Lauderdale was 1,009 with 924 paid and the house was \$11,000, so it was not the largest crowd in ECW history although it was the largest outside of the ECW Arena.

There are some wanting to see the Rottens put back together since Public Enemy vs. Pit Bulls has been done to death and they have no other tag teams, but Heyman doesn't want to violate stipulations since Rottens had a match with Pit Bulls that they lost where the losing team had to break up forever.

After seeing the television from Tampa which aired on 5/16, the company is in real danger of pigeon-holing itself into a corner. The number of people seeing that Tampa crowd on television that would want to attend a live show is very small, and not because the product isn't entertaining. The show crossed a boundary, largely due to crowd behavior, between what it has looked like which is a controlled violent product into genuinely looking like being there to see the product is part of a dangerous atmosphere that could explode into a riot at any moment. Even if they like the product, most people seeing that would rather either stick to watching it on television or not watch it at all.

On the TV the week before they had pre and post-match locker room antics involving the 5/5 Sandman vs. Cactus match. The pre and post were actually taped the next night in Tampa.

Ron Simmons did a heel turn on Too Cold Scorpio on the 5/20 show. There was a DQ finish in what had been a scientific match, but both men wanted the match re-stated and a Scorpio was coming through the ropes, Simmons whiplashed the ropes to give him a low blow for the win.

Jack & Tommy Dreamer both rolled all the way down 15 rows of bleachers during their death match against Raven & Sandman on the same show.

Shane Douglas is doing the gimmick where he says he wants to turn ECW into clean wrestling like the WWF with all the rules strictly enforced and won't take objects from the fans.

JUNE 5, 1995

Add a 6/16 date in Jim Thorpe, PA to the June schedule listed last week.

Cactus Jack did an awesome interview on this week's television show talking about being days away from his 30th birthday seemingly to shove the idea into the faces of those who both predicted he'd never make it in wrestling or be in a wheelchair before this point.

No shows until 6/9.

JUNE 12, 1995

Lots of rumors but little of substance regarding the ownership and future of the company. What we do know, which is very little, is that HHG, which is now the company signing the checks as opposed to the old ECW company which was

owned 50% by Tod Gordon and the other 50% by Paul Heyman, is now a company owned by Heyman. Both Heyman and Gordon are looking for investors and both seem to expect a new deal will be finalized within one week. Gordon said that 90% of the debts have already been paid off and the total of all debts outstanding is now less than \$15,000. Gordon also said, contrary to any rumors circulating, that he would, if he should be out, run opposition to Heyman. Actually in any kind of a corporate buy out they usually have the provision of a non-compete. Gordon said that the heat between he and Heyman has been blown out of proportion and whatever disagreements they've had are no stronger than the regular disagreements they have such as regarding swearing over the p.a., and the amount of matches per show which contain blood and brawling outside the ring.

With Shane Douglas missing the 6/17 show because he will be attending a wedding, the main event will be Sandman vs. Cactus Jack in a barbed wire match for the ECW title. The rest of the show hasn't been finalized. They look to be adding a show somewhere on 6/30 although the site hasn't been determined.

On the W*ING tour, the Pit Bulls that worked against Public Enemy were Psycho Mike (billed as Buster) & Jason Knight (their former ECW manager Jason who was fired by ECW several weeks back). Gary Wolfe (Spike) was married this past week so had to cancel the tour.

Television this past weekend was one of the stronger shows in a while. They aired an edited down version of the 5/13 Eddy Guerrero vs. Dean Malenko 30:00 match (about 15:00 aired) which in that version looked like a fantastic match. In that version it looked better than any U.S. match I've seen this year (I've yet to see their first match yet). On television, they introduced Peter Senerca (Tazmaniac's real name) as the guest color commentator calling him an ex college wrestling champion and winner of shootfight tournaments in Japan. After the match they showed Senerca to be Tazmaniac to attempt to humanize him and take the cartoon gimmick out of the character and turn him into a human tough guy, showing a video of him throwing those killer suplexes. The other bout was the Sandman vs. Cactus Jack match where Sandman hit Jack with the cane in the groin for the finish, which was very good in a different way.

Nobody from ECW had any idea Chris Benoit was going to work the WWF tapings. ECW had been planning on building its key issue over the summer as a Benoit vs. Guerrero feud.

Expect a major push for heel ref Bill Alfonso.

ECW will start airing in about three weeks on Deportiva, the Spanish language version of the Los Angeles Prime cable.

JUNE 19, 1995

We need to make two major corrections from last week's issue in regard to ECW. On page eight, the line about HHG being a company "now owned" by Paul Heyman should have read "not owned," changing the meaning of the sentence completely. Also, Tod Gordon told us that contrary to rumors he would not be running opposition to Heyman. The word "not" doesn't appear in the piece which also changes the meaning 180 degrees. Both sentences, which made the entire gist of the

story read totally opposite to what it should have read, were due to proofreading errors on our part.

This isn't to say things are running smoothly at ECW. There is tremendous behind-the-scenes turmoil and nobody is exactly clear as to what is really happening. The story we're being told is that Heyman is running the show right now and it appears to be his company no matter who or what HHG really is. Heyman supposedly has an investor who has made an offer to buy Gordon's 50% of the company, that figures have gone back-and-forth in regard to negotiations, but that no deal has been completed at press time. Gordon himself was looking for investors to stay involved but indicated by the end of the week that was less likely to happen. Gordon will probably remain doing some office work and in his figurehead commissioner role on television whether he retains ownership or not. At press time, the company's checks are still from HHG but that is supposed to be a temporary situation. Several are also claiming that Gordon's claim debts have been paid off to the point that the company's debt is down to \$15,000 sounds low.

Whether the turmoil has any bearing on talent movement, and there is uncertainty among talent to be sure, is unknown. Chris Benoit, the company's best wrestler, worked the WWF television tapings last week. Contrary to all the rumors, Benoit had not agreed to go to the WWF as of press time and in a last minute deal was booked for the 6/17 ECW Arena show. WWF officials at last word thought of it as a 50/50 deal whether Benoit would eventually come in. For Benoit to go to WWF, it would mean he'd have to give up his job with New Japan which would be the major stumbling block. Rick & Scott Steiner for a brief period of time worked for both groups simultaneously before eventually quitting WWF because New Japan pay was so much higher for the amount of dates required, but it's doubtful WWF would make the same concession in Benoit's case. Benoit was trained in Japan, which helped him get a regular job there. At the same time no matter how good he got, those running the company still remember him as loyal Chris and he's thought of as a great underneath wrestler but never considered as a headliner. He's never gotten the push there that his both his talent, charisma and popularity have earned due to him being thought of as similar to a New Japan young boy and because he's been typecast in the junior heavyweight role. In a poll at the end of the year, Benoit ranked behind only Steve Williams, Stan Hansen and Ken Wayne Shamrock as the most popular foreign wrestler, yet he's still booked as a mid-card junior heavyweight. Benoit had informed New Japan he was going to the WWF tapings and from all accounts no matter what, Benoit will work through August with New Japan. ECW was unaware Benoit was working the WWF tapings until the next morning when it became the talk of the wrestling world, however Benoit did attempt to contact Heyman several times over the previous weekend. If he were to stay with New Japan, he would almost surely stay with ECW as well and on 6/12 told Heyman he was still with them and hadn't agreed to anything as of yet with WWF.

Shane Douglas was also backstage at the WWF tapings last week. Douglas, who is scheduled to start medical school in 1996, has a regular job as a history teacher in Pittsburgh and wrestles only on weekends now. He'd have to give up his teaching job to go to WWF. Those in WWF thought Douglas was a strong bet to be coming in although over the weekend he told those in ECW that he was planning on staying. There were several reports Douglas was unhappy about not only losing the ECW title to Sandman, but also when Heyman apparently changed his original plans and decided to keep the title on Sandman rather than Douglas getting it back. In

addition, WCW is expected to if they haven't already done so, make a play for Tommy Dreamer. And it is well known that Terry Funk's last ECW appearance at least for a while will be on the 7/1 show, as Funk returned primarily to keep his IWA feud with Cactus Jack alive in magazine photos. On the other hand, Sabu has talked with both Heyman and Gordon about coming back, which would fill a major almost unreplaceable hole left if Benoit does go to WWF. Heyman is said to be leery because of what happened before, believing an example needs to be maintained. In addition, a AAA connection was set up this past week between Heyman and Konnan, who was originally going to make a surprise appearance at the 6/9 ECW show in Philadelphia. Konnan, who was in the United States that day, missed the show due to a family emergency. While no dates are confirmed, Konnan is supposed to work with ECW starting perhaps as early as the late summer and Heyman is interested in working through Konnan in booking other AAA wrestlers, in particular Rey Mysterio Jr. and Psicosis. While those two in particular are much smaller than wrestlers U.S. fans have seen, they probably would get over huge at the ECW Arena and an AAA connection would give the group access to any number of wrestlers who can plug any gap in talent left by anyone leaving.

The question is, what is going to pay for all this. Outside of the ECW Arena, ECW's crowds aren't self supporting given the use of name talent, many of whom are fly-ins. Some question whether even at the Arena with the full houses that with all the fly-ins that the shows are truly financial successes, pointing to the current situation as proof they aren't. With the exception of a few shows at the ECW Arena, the group has yet to draw 1,000 paid to a show. Although Gordon and Heyman both downplay this aspect, those in the periphery of the promotion talk about the group having lost a considerable amount of money with no turnaround in site, pointing to the debts as proof. All but its biggest detractors admit they probably put on the best house shows in the United States and in many aspects have the best television show as well. As the financial situation on the surface appears uncertain, more-and-more question if the "Extreme" nature is one that can be economically viable in this country. Some point to FMW as proof it can be, but even FMW's popularity in hindsight now appears to have more based on the charisma of one wrestler rather than based on an extreme style, and the United States doesn't have the media coverage where a small group could as easily create that kind of a celebrity drawing card. Several within the company are trying to talk Heyman into trying to use PPV as a means to profitability, but Heyman is more leery thinking the company isn't ready. While SEG (which does UFC) has expressed interest in ECW as a PPV entity, Heyman believes going on without adequate major market exposure is a risk and a first buy rate that flops would do a lot of long-term damage.

Only show over the weekend was at Drexel University in Philadelphia before 302 fans. The main event was supposed to be Sandman defending the title against the winner of a Too Cold Scorpio vs. Marty Jannetty match. When the two wrestled to a double pin, Tod Gordon came out and announced because it was a draw that Sandman would have to defend against both of them. Sandman then won both matches. In the Public Enemy baseball bat match with Pit Bulls, which they won, Rocco Rock did a somersault off the top of the bleachers onto one of the Pit Bulls who was lying on a table. At one point this match was going to be changed to an unadvertised Public

Enemy teaming with Konnan against Pit Bulls & Raven, but Konnan wasn't there.

Jungle Jim Steele was backstage looking for work.

Cactus Jack and Ian Rotten had a really weird match. Cactus said that ECW fans have seen him shed enough blood and for one night he deserved a break and would give people a scientific match. The crowd booed and Cactus and Axl started telling them if they didn't like it to go home. When fans would get antsy Cactus started insulting them. At one point Cactus started leading the crowd in chants of boring over the house mic. Then Cactus said that if anyone was faxing Dave Meltzer from this show to tell him it was a five star match. Both guys wound up outside the ring using objects, but then went back to restholds. Eventually both men juiced and they went out of the ring with chair shots. It appeared the storyline was that both men were going to try and wrestle a scientific match but couldn't because violence runs in their veins. Some of the fans understood it at the end but a lot didn't.

In the Raven & Steve Richards vs. Tommy Dreamer & Cactus match, the local college wrestling coach and Beulah McGillicutty were refs. Beulah was totally partial so John Finnegan (a regular ref) kicked her out of refereeing. Dreamer & Jack lost, so after the match Dreamer piledrove Beulah twice, the second one on a chair.

The local Philadelphia CBS affiliate covered this show.

No word on the 6/17 ECW Arena line-up other than Sandman defending against Cactus in a barbed wire match, Public Enemy defending against Axl Rotten and a mystery partner, Luna Vachon vs. Beulah McGillicutty and Tommy Dreamer & Taz & Too Cold Scorpio vs. Raven & Pit Bulls plus Benoit. To get over Taz' gimmick change, he is now wearing a crewcut and wears normal tights and wrestling boots, looking somewhat like a shorter version of Rick Steiner with a better tan. When the ring announcer on 6/9 said "Let's hear it for the Tazmaniac," 911 gave him a choke slam for calling him Tazmaniac.

As mentioned earlier, The Gangstas are headed in, presumably to feud with Public Enemy. There were also rumors of PG-13 doing some dates against Public Enemy.

ECW will be starting very shortly on Ch. 25 in Cincinnati at 10 p.m. Monday nights.

JULY 3, 1995

Expect the 7/1 Philadelphia show to be the largest crowd in ECW history because so many are coming from out-of-town due to the Internet convention. ECW also has the Arena booked on 7/15 which should be a big show because New Japan isn't touring during that time (which means Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko and Eddy Guerrero will all probably appear), and will run again either 7/29 or 8/5, both during periods New Japan isn't touring. Added to the line-up listed last week for 7/1 is that the Sandman vs. Cactus Jack title match will be Singapore cane legal and Cactus Jack can wrap his arms in barbed wire, while the final Axl Rotten vs. Ian Rotten match will be billed as a Taipei death match where both will rub glue on their hands and put broken glass on their fists. The reason

Terry Funk isn't wrestling Cactus on this show as originally planned is because Funk's back is in really bad shape and he probably won't be wrestling anywhere until his IWA tour which starts on 8/9. Originally the two were supposed to shoot a major angle on this card to build up the 8/20 show.

These dates aren't definite but it looks like there will be shows on 7/20 in Fort Lauderdale at the War Memorial, 7/21 at Expo Park in Tampa and 7/22 at the Orlando Fairgrounds. The Tampa building after the chair throwing disturbance decided to book ECW again after all. Benoit, Malenko and Guerrero are booked on all three shows and even if Benoit goes to WWF, it won't be until well after this point in time. This isn't definite but it looks like the first Benoit vs. Guerrero match may be in Fort Lauderdale and they'll do Guerrero vs. Malenko the other two nights. There will be a Benoit vs. Guerrero match, if not matches, this summer at the ECW Arena as well. Fort Lauderdale will also likely have Sandman vs. Axl Rotten with the cane and a barbed wire baseball bat on a pole.

Paul Heyman is talking about bringing in Johnny Smith from Calgary.

Almost everyone in the company is convinced it's a question of when, and not if, Shane Douglas goes to WWF.

JULY 10, 1995

It was another of those weekends where there were so many angles one would need three people taking notes to remember them all at the ECW's Internet convention which included shows 6/30 in Jim Thorpe, PA and 7/1 in Philadelphia with Raven & Steve Richards beating Public Enemy for the tag team titles the first night.

At the Jim Thorpe show in front of about 425 fans, they started the Pit Bulls babyface turn. During the match a girl at ringside (who I believe will be called Francine) who has been on TV cheering for Steve Richards (who I was told stole the show all weekend as far as being a performer), got into a fight with Beulah McGillicuddy. Raven got mad and dragged Richards and McGillicuddy to the back by the hair, but the Pit Bulls got mad because they couldn't understand why the management was leaving. Taz came out to wrestle Mikey Whipwreck, but Whipwreck couldn't wrestle because his arm was in a sling. Heel ref Bill Alfonso came out and said there was a contract signed and demanded the match take place. Chad Austin then came out and challenged Taz calling him Tazmaniac (the name which has been dropped and nobody is supposed to use anymore). Taz immediately hit the suplex but Alfonso called for a DQ because Taz attacked his opponent before the bell. Axl Rotten beat Ian Rotten in a bloody barbed wire baseball bat match. Shane Douglas and Cactus Jack had a debate. Douglas said that when he started in ECW it was a quality organization but called it Extreme Championship Bullshit (a take-off on Sabu's knocks of ECW) and that's why he's leaving for the group where Bret Hart wrestles and where Bruno Sammartino and Billy Graham used to wrestle. The two traded stories about breaking in together at Dom DeNucci's wrestling school. When Douglas talked about what a great wrestler he was, Jack brought up his "classic" match with Tully Blanchard. Shane said he was the only wrestler in ECW and Mikey Whipwreck was brought out as another clean wrestler and when Douglas threatened Whipwreck, Jack challenged him to a match. To show how weird things are, while Douglas was talking, the biggest chants were "We Want Flair." They squared off and Douglas walked out and took a powder. Raven

& Richards won the tag title. Raven walked out in disgust because Richards was getting killed, so Richards was getting destroyed when The Gangstas did a run-in and destroyed Public Enemy and Richards scored a pin. Ref John Finnegan ran into the ring and reversed the decision saying Public Enemy won due to outside interference. Alfonso then came out and gave the belts back to Raven & Richards claiming the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission doesn't allow for reversals of decisions. Richards then offered an open challenge to anyone and 911 finished the show by choke slamming Richards, Raven, ring announcer Bob Artese and the timekeeper. 911 then chased Alfonso to the dressing room. Raven & Richards then refused to leave the ring because of what happened. They stayed in the ring as Sandman and Tommy Dreamer came out for the ECW title match. The two wound up jumping Dreamer before the match. Dreamer has the match won when suddenly the medics come out with Luna on a stretcher (storyline being she was knocked out backstage by Raven & Richards) and Dreamer gets distracted allowing Sandman to give Dreamer a low blow with the cane and score the pin.

This led to the 7/1 show, which drew a packed house of approximately 1,075 fans, so it wasn't the expected record even with the big crew coming in from out of town. It opened with the Dudley Brothers (Anthony Michaels of SMW and Florida indie wrestler Jeff Bradley managed by a local who may have worked as Alexander the Great for ICW although I'm not sure of that) upsetting the Pit Bulls. Dudley Brothers are two guys doing the Hansen brothers retard nerd gimmick from the hockey movie "Slap Shot" from the mid-70s and the manager is called "Big Dick Dudley." During the match they did the same thing as the previous night with Francine and Beulah getting into it and Raven dragging Richards and Beulah to the back. When Pit Bulls were distracted by all this, they were pinned. Next up Chad Austin & Tony Stetson were wrestling Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff in a match which was horrible although Austin was purposely mistiming every move. In other words, the guys were working the crowd with the object that the crowd was to hate this match, which really isn't the hardest thing to accomplish, so 911 could come out and choke slam all four. Hack Myers pinned Val Puccio but after the match Puccio jumped Myers and gave him a big splash and Myers did a stretcher job. That was said to have been terrible. Scorpio pinned Taz in an upset. Scorpio did his tumbleweed legdrop but Taz popped up and hit a big suplex for the pin but Scorpio got his leg on the ropes. Alfonso ordered the match to continue which led to Taz arguing with Alfonso. Scorpio hit Taz from behind with a chair and did a leg drop for the pin. After the match Alfonso and Scorpio destroyed Paul E. Then Douglas came out for an interview running down ECW. At some point Woman came out and Douglas called her a douche bag and she slapped him. Sandman came out and did a number on Douglas until Cactus Jack made the save for Douglas. Douglas said that after all that had happened, he and Cactus were still best of friends but that Sandman would get a wrestling lesson later in the show. Raven & Richards beat Luna & Dreamer to keep the tag titles. Luna was as stiff as the guys and took bumps like the guys and visually it didn't look bad, although there were a lot of complaints that her beating Richards up the entire time they were in with each other made it sillier than WWF but it was an entertaining match. Beulah threw powder Luna's eyes and she was pinned. Axl and Ian Rotten then started their Taipei death match where both glued glass to their hands. Axl threw one punch and Ian was cut and immediately Alfonso stopped the match ruling Ian too badly cut to continue. At this point Gangstas and Public Enemy started brawling by the dressing room and Alfonso announced he wanted them all arrested and chased them out of the building. Tod Gordon

(who was put over heavily to the fans as the babyface promoter and boss and all over the place with angles which in wrestling usually means something as in someone is trying to feed someone's ego in order to cut a better deal. Paul E. was the one writing and signing all the checks backstage and is running everything) announced with Alfonso gone that Axl vs. Ian would be re-started. Finish saw Ian dump a bunch of thumb tacks on the mat and went for a suplex, but Axl reversed it and Ian took a bump on the thumb tacks and was pinned. Told it was a sick match. Joey Styles interviewed Dreamer & Luna with Luna challenging Richards to a cage match on the next show. Raven and Richards came out and a brawl ensued. Pit Bulls came out but refused to attack Luna and Richards punched them, causing them to turn on Raven & Richards and the Dudley Brothers wound up involved as well siding with the heels. Next up was Sandman vs. Cactus for the ECW title with the cane legal and Cactus' fist in barbed wire. Woman took her first bump and so did the ref. Douglas came in and gave Sandman a DDT and said he just gave Sandman his wrestling lesson. He then said he learned a lesson in life about keeping your friends close and your enemies closer and attacked Cactus, and put Sandman on top and the revived ref counted the fall. After the match, Gordon "fired" Douglas (who is leaving for WWF) and Douglas started giving Gordon a beating until 911 made the save doing the choke slam. The night ended with Public Enemy beating Gangstas in an excellent brawl (said to be ****1/4) all over the building. Public Enemy won using a croquet mallet but were jumped after the match. After the match Public Enemy invited fans to come into the ring and dance with them and everyone ran in and carried them on their shoulders.

With Cactus Jack in Japan, the 7/15 ECW Arena show will have Sandman vs. Axl Rotten for the ECW title, Steve Richards vs. Luna Vachon in a cage match and Public Enemy vs. Gangstas in a spray paint match.

Paul Heyman mentioned bringing in both Johnny Smith and Chris Jericho over the weekend.

If Chris Benoit returns, expect them immediately to program him with Eddy Guerrero.

The crowds were totally into just about every angle over the weekend even more than even before.

They've got a show on 7/28 in Middletown, NY at the fair.

Vampire Warrior will work ECW dates in Florida but has to trans himself in to work the Northeast shows. I guess he and Luna are married but split-up at the present time so that aspect of the angle has some legitimacy.

Last week on television they aired the "match" with Jungle Jim Steele vs. 911. They did the "Extreme Encyclopedia" gimmick and basically tried to paint Steele as someone who has annoyed wrestling fans similar to Ultimate Warrior and Renegade.

JULY 17, 1995

The Steiner Brothers have no New Japan bookings from this point through mid-October, which in and of itself is surprising since New Japan's August and September tours are two of the biggest of the year, so they will be starting with ECW on the 7/28 show in Middletown, NY for about a two-month program.

They aren't going to be pushed as a tag team because Paul Heyman wants to keep the tag team spotlight on already existing teams like Gangstas, Public Enemy and Raven & Steve Richards and because it won't be easy to get the Steiners to do a job for any of those teams. The direction at this point looks to be six-mans with Steiners & Taz as a regular trio feuding with the likes of Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko & Too Cold Scorpio with their first.

Top matches for 7/15 at the ECW Arena are Steve Richards vs. Luna Vachon in a cage match, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas in a cage match with weapons inside the cage, Sandman vs. Axl Rotten for the ECW title and Tazmaniac & Eddy Guerrero vs. Too Cold Scorpio & Dean Malenko.

No shows took place this past week.

Line-ups for the next Florida tour are 7/20 in Fort Lauderdale with Sandman vs. Cactus Jack in a non-title barbed wire match, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas, Raven & Steve Richards vs. Luna & Tommy Dreamer for the ECW tag titles and Guerrero & Taz vs. Malenko & Scorpio.

7/21 in Tampa will be headlined by a Battle Royal with the winner getting a shot at Sandman for the belt, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas in an Extreme Death match, Raven & Richards vs. Dreamer & Luna for the belts, Guerrero vs. Malenko for the TV title, Taz vs. Scorpio and Ian vs. Axl in the Taipei death match.

7/22 in Orlando has Sandman defending against Marty Jannetty, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas street fight, Luna vs. Richards, Dreamer vs. Raven in a death match, Ian vs. Axl in a barbed wire baseball bat match and Guerrero & Taz vs. Malenko & Scorpio.

ECW is now on WAVI, Ch. 58 in Greenbelt, MD.

JULY 24, 1995

ECW has three shows this coming week in Florida.

Only matches announced for 8/5 back at the ECW Arena for Wrestlepalooza (don't think someone didn't notice that an out of control wrestling group opened at Lollapalooza and played before more people than anyone else in pro wrestling will play before this year) are Public Enemy vs. Gangstas in a stretcher match and Steiners & Taz vs. Dean Malenko & Chris Benoit & Too Cold Scorpio.

7/15 show drew about 1,000 fans in an incredibly hot building. Hot as in temperature which people were saying between the heat and humidity it felt as though it was 120 degrees in the building, whatever 120 degrees is supposed to feel like, which can't be pleasant. Before the opener, Bill Alfonso and Tod Gordon did an angle which ended with Gordon clotheslining Alfonso from behind to a big pop. Mikey Whipwreck beat Mike Norman. Tony Stetson & Don E. Allen upset Raven & Steve Richards via count out when Beulah McGillicuddy and Francine started fighting and Raven and Richards were counted out trying to break them up. The Pit Bulls, Dudley Brothers and Tommy Dreamer were all involved as well and the cops hauled Beulah and Francine out. Stetson then claimed since they beat the tag champs, they deserve a title shot. Pit Bulls & Dreamer beat Raven & Dudley Brothers. Sandman kept the ECW title beating Axl Rotten with a legdrop

off the top rope. Axl used both a cane and barbed wire bat. Some talk that Rotten is going to USWA as a stepping stone of trying to get into the WWF. The match with Dean Malenko & Too Cold Scorpio vs. Eddy Guerrero & Taz first ended with Paul E. Dangerously using the telephone on Scorpio. Alfonso came out and restarted the match and Malenko pinned Eddy and Scorpio pinned Taz simultaneously. Then came a weird angle where Rob Feinstein started talking about videotapes and somehow he took the heat for ECW videos being sent out late in the angle. Feinstein said some of his best selling tapes are the Best of Sabu, old Bill Watts UWF and the NWA tournament promoted by Dennis Coraluzzo as Dangerously got mad at each reference to his "enemies." Dangerously shoved Feinstein but Feinstein jumped Paul E. and started beating on him until 911 choke slammed him twice. With Feinstein on the ground selling, Paul E. said he had two words to say, "Ken Shamrock," which I guess is supposed to be a knock on Coraluzzo since Dan Severn is his champion. In the first cage match, Luna Vachon beat Steve Richards with a claw hold to the groin. The match had double juice. Raven got in attacking Luna and Pit Bulls and Dreamer wound up in the ring. Dreamer handcuffed Raven to the cage and gave him a super stiff chair shot and slammed the cage door on Raven's fingers. The finale was a cage match with Public Enemy vs. Gangstas with the fans throwing all sorts of weapons into the cage for the wrestlers to use. Among the things thrown at the ring were chairs and bottles and the crowd was starting to get out of control. The match had four-way juice, ending when Rocco Rock moonsaulted off the top of the cage onto New Jack who was lying on top of two tables and they went through both tables. At the same time, Mustafa sprayed something in Johnny Grunge's eyes and got the pin. Rocco Rock did a stretcher job after the match.

ECW will be starting shortly on Atlanta television at 3:30 a.m. on Saturday night, if it hasn't started already.

JULY 31, 1995

Crowds were up in all three cities on the Florida swing. Fort Lauderdale was up to an estimated 1,100 on 7/20, with Tampa at around 800 and Orlando a sellout of 600. Taz suffered a neck injury the first night from a stiff tombstone piledriver and will be out of action anywhere from a few weeks to a month or two. Axl Rotten no-showed all three dates having started this weekend with USWA. He was replaced by Bull Pain. The shows were continuations of most of the current major programs such as Gangstas vs. Public Enemy and Tommy Dreamer & Luna Vachon vs. Raven & Steve Richards. People say it's amazing watching Luna work with the guys because they work so stiff with her.

The first night, the ring showed up late and the scheduled 7:30 p.m. start wound up being 8:15 p.m. and the show didn't end until 12:30 a.m. On the second night, after Public Enemy beat Gangstas, in order to avoid a repeat of the chair throwing in Tampa, Public Enemy invited the fans to get in the ring and dance with them, which they did. With about 30 fans in the ring carrying Public Enemy on their shoulders, the weight wound up collapsing the ring. Expect that scene on television this week or next. Nobody was hurt although the ring was badly damaged. Later New Jack went after a fan but some of the wrestlers calmed him down. In Orlando, they did an angle with Bill Alfonso where he told the fans he was bringing in a special referee who has experience with WCW, Jimmy Jett (Jimmy Berkley who works the Disney tapings) and 911 wound up choke-slammimg him.

The Taipei death match where Ian Rotten and Bull Pain wound up cutting each other up with glass and the barbed wire baseball bat match the next night didn't get over very well.

Next dates in Florida are tentatively 9/14, 9/15 and 9/16 in Fort Lauderdale, Tampa and Orlando respectively.

Actually they did stuff with Alfonso all three nights.

With Taz out with an injury, Paul E. Dangerously over the house mic said there's an unwritten rule among wrestlers that they don't try to break each others' necks and that Scorpio had violated the rule and kept calling Scorpio a mother something or other. Scorpio, who has gained a lot of weight and it's table weight and not steroid weight, decked Paul E. but 911 made the save. Eddy Guerrero and Dean Malenko had their usual great technical match but once again some fans tried to start "boring" chants.

Ian Rotten, in explaining about Axl Rotten not being there said over the p.a. that Axl didn't care about ECW fans and he's left to go to the land of midgets and toe suckers, the USWA.

On the television this past week, there were several references to Ken Shamrock done in a way to try and rub Dennis Coraluzzo's face in it since Dan Severn is his champion.

In Fort Lauderdale, Paul E. over the p.a. said that when Scorpio was in WCW they used to call him Bagwell Blower and Scorpio came back and said the rumor in WCW was that Paul E. and Bagwell were sweet on each other. And that's just the clean stuff. During the match, which was the one where Taz was injured, which was Taz & Eddy Guerrero vs. Dean Malenko & Scorpio, there were chants among the fans back and forth of "boring" and "shut the f*** up" which pretty much took too much attention away from the match. Paul E. grabbed the house mic and said, "I'm sorry if you find a fine display of scientific wrestling boring, but I was wondering if you could peel back your foreskin so I could see your nose." The wrestlers started giving the fans who were catcalling the match the finger. After Guerrero pinned Malenko after a superplex, he grabbed the mic and said, "You pay for your tickets and you have every right to cheer for who you want and what you want. But when you deprecate somebody's work, somebody's athletic ability, it only shows your education, brother." Apparently that got the biggest pop of the show.

The TV show, which just debuted in an early a.m. time slot on Ch. 69 in Atlanta, will be pulled at the end of August because the station has network commitments to run replays of college football. The North Georgia show and the ECW were pulled, but North Georgia will be moving to Ch. 36 at 2 a.m. on Saturday nights. ECW theoretically will be back in January on Ch. 69 after football season ends.

In the Rob Feinstein angle at the Philadelphia show, Feinstein was brought out as Bill Alfonso's personal videotape to get choke slammed.

AUGUST 7, 1995

Only show this past week was 7/28 at the Orange County fair in Middletown, NY drawing 1,056 paid and about 1,400 total which is impressive since the only television in the market is MSG cable and they have a revolving time slot. The show was held during a rainstorm which probably held down attendance

and definitely hurt the workrate as the ring and ropes were too slippery for a lot of the usual high-risk stuff.

Taz (Pete Senerca) was in a neck brace as of the weekend but his neck injury has improved substantially in the past week. He won't work 8/5 in Philadelphia but should be back by the end of the month.

The television shows over the next two weeks will be built around the two Eddy Guerrero-Dean Malenko title change matches.

Snot Dudley (Anthony Michaels) was in a serious car accident so that tag team has already become a single (Dudley Dudley aka Jeff Bradley). Dudley & Vampire Warrior were the opponents for the Steiners debut match on 7/28.

It will probably now be Steiners & Guerrero vs. Too Cold Scorpio & Malenko & Chris Benoit on the 8/5 ECW Arena show, although there was talk of putting Cactus Jack in the Taz spot for this match as well and no final decision was made as of Sunday night.

Matches on TV the past two weeks with Taz & Guerrero vs. Scorpio & Malenko have been excellent. Guerrero doesn't have Shawn Michaels' charisma, but is actually an even better worker because he's got a wider variety of moves and ironically, even though he has the Mexican style upbringing, because of his years in Japan, his style looks more like a match whereas a Michaels match when he's got his working shoes on (and Guerrero seems to a higher percentage of the time) looks more like an exhibition of awesome spots. Guerrero does awesome spots but they don't have the feel of looking as set-up. Of course Malenko is better than anyone Michaels has regularly worked with so that could make a difference.

Steve Richards did a great interview on this past week's television show shot at 5 a.m. on the beach with Raven & Beulah McGillicuddy. Richards talked about growing up and watching wrestling from Florida imitating Kevin Sullivan and talking about the angle where the Purple Haze (Mark Lewin) came out of the sea.

Ricky Morton has been in negotiations to come in, which if it should happen, would be as a heel as part of Raven's team.

The most heat on television has been placed on 911 attempting to choke slam Bill Alfonso. They do a segment every week where 911 comes close but Alfonso escapes every time.

Tod Gordon's Carver W. Reed jewelry store was broken into and robbed on 7/27. No word on how much was taken.

AUGUST 14, 1995

At press time, the future of Extreme Championship Wrestling on the Sunshine Network and affiliate Liberty Cable was in question after the network decided to pull this past week's airings of the show due to an angle involving The Sandman, Mikey Whipwreck and Woman.

According to Paul Heyman, who runs ECW, the Thursday (and subsequent weekend replays) of the show on Sunshine Cable was canceled when programmer Dave Omstead previewed a

tape of the show and found the angle offensive and pulled the show. Sunshine Network, which broadcasts throughout Florida and was the company's only TV building up to his Florida house show swings which have drawn steadily increasing crowd. Sunshine, Liberty and Prime Cable are all affiliated companies and constitute the majority of the cable penetration of ECW.

A Sunshine Network spokesman on Tuesday blamed the show not airing and that the show was being canceled by the network due to "ECW cancelling their contract with us," saying it was a last-minute decision and claimed negotiations were no longer ongoing. Many wrestling fans had called the network since Friday morning and were told that the show had been canceled and a Sunshine programmer said calls had been continuing through Tuesday.

Heyman and his television syndicator, Steve Karel, had conference calls on Friday and Monday with Sunshine and late Monday Heyman seemed confident that the two sides could come to an agreement in a Tuesday afternoon scheduled meeting, with Heyman offering to allow them the right to bleep out anything they found offensive on his show and expected to be back on the air on Sunshine on 8/11 although said no final agreement had been reached.

Heyman said as far as the contract went, ECW was paying Sunshine to be on the air, and a payment was due this past week. When the show didn't air as scheduled on Thursday, ECW didn't make its payment and said that would make them behind on the monthly payment.

The angle said to be in question was where Sandman (Jim Fullington) beat Mikey Whipwreck (John Watson) and got to cane him ten times in a match from 7/21 in Tampa. During the caning incident, Woman (Nancy Daus Sullivan) was on the house mic saying how she loved the violence, acting as if she was getting off on it in a manner that certainly couldn't be described as subtle (apparently taken from a scene in the movie "Natural Born Killers").

One argument against making long-term plans is that if something goes awry, those plans aren't worth the time spent making them. Paul Heyman is known and even joked about for changing his booking up until the moment the goes go into the ring. Often, based on crowd reactions or execution, he'll change plans, or change where he's going next. The 8/6 ECW Arena show was a prime example against long-term booking since Chris Benoit, Marty Jannetty and Luna Vachon all no-showed, for various reasons and all were in key positions. This led to a stop-gap measure of immediately turning Cactus Jack heel (which was planned for sometime down the road but certainly not this soon). It started earlier in the show when Raven & Steve Richards & Dudley Dudley (Jeff Bradley) & Big Dick Dudley (a Pennsylvania indie guy who used to work as Alexander the Great, replaced Snot Dudley aka Anthony Michaels who will be out a few months after an auto accident) faced Cactus & Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls. Raven then began hypnotizing Jack saying he was in constant pain for Terry Funk betraying him and for being unable to ever get revenge on Funk. Jack would always tag out whenever Raven would tag in. Finally Jack gave Dreamer a double-arm DDT and put Richards on top for the pin. The turn was risky for a few reasons. A hypnosis angle more often than not will be ungodly stupid, but Jack is so good at getting things over and ECW fans are so in awe of Heyman they're pretty much buying whatever he gives them right now, plus Jack is about as

popular a wrestler as there is there and up until a few months ago nobody liked Dreamer. Later in the show Too Cold Scorpio & Dean Malenko came out and said they'd face the Steiners & Eddy Guerrero by themselves because of Benoit's injury. Raven came out and offered them Cactus as a partner. Jack got a strong heel reaction and said the Steiners were really over, overrated and overpaid, and said that Eddy Guerrero was a midget. The match was in the ****1/2 range, stealing the show. Steiners basically left the spotlight to Guerrero, since he was the one doing the job at the end, allowing him to do all kinds of great moves. Scott Steiner is said to be up to 280 pounds now. Malenko ended up pinning Guerrero clean to set up a two of three fall singles match between the two on the 8/26 ECW Arena show.

Tod Gordon wasn't around, at least as a participant, at either show this weekend. Bill Alfonso wasn't around either, although he's on a family vacation in Europe which they're eventually going to put into the storyline and they were claiming that Rob Feinstein, his personal videographer, was taping the shows so Alfonso could reverse decisions when he gets back. The Feinstein situation is really amazing. The background of all this is that when the company ran into its problems paying the bills, apparently when Gordon largely bailed out of funding it, Feinstein was owed \$5,200. Lots of people involved with merchandise were owed money at that point and some still are. Feinstein, who handled videos for the company, was told he'd be paid back the money in monthly installments, which up until the beginning of this month was taking place. Last month Heyman introduced him on television and at the arenas as a heel character basically blaming him for the ECW videotape end of the business being disorganized, tapes being sent out late, poor quality of tapes and used it as an angle. As it all has turned out, as a shoot, Feinstein quit as tape distributor on 8/7 because his monthly installment due 8/1 never came and ECW had actually increased its debt to him to \$6,000 rather than cutting the debt down. Heyman had already turned him strong heel and switched the heat to him for people whose videos took a long time in arriving for whatever reason with his audience. In fact, on 8/4 at Jim Thorpe, PA, Feinstein, wearing a neck brace, started insulting the crowd. 911 came out but Feinstein said he had a neck brace on. 911 then ripped off the neckbrace and choke slammed him anyway. They wound up getting Feinstein's pants off and giving him a wedgie and Heyman started telling small dick jokes while the crowd chanted similar things. During the Public Enemy vs. Gangstas match on that show, Rocco Rock tried to throw New Jack over a balcony which is on a cliff.

Complete ECW Arena show rundown for 8/5: J.T. Smith pinned Hack Myers when Val Puccio interfered. Smith tried a dive over the top rope but caught his feet on the ropes going over, and wound up landing head first on the floor. He got up and his face was badly swollen to the size of a half-egg. Smith still finished the match and they did the planned finish; They did an interview with Raven, Richards, Beulah McGillicuddy and Francine which ended with Beulah and Francine having another cat fight to the back of the building. Puccio beat Tony Stetson via DQ when Myers interfered and hit Puccio with a chair; Paul E. Dangerously did an interview saying that fans who wanted to chant that he sucked or wanted to chant for Sabu had a right to pay \$25 to do so. He then started insulting ringside fans that were pro-Sabu but then said if Sabu wanted to return and face the fans he had let down, the door was open to him. He then said Sabu had injured Benoit in Japan so Benoit wouldn't be there, and that Jannetty and Luna wouldn't be there blaming Luna not being there on trans problems caused by Hurricane Erin. Benoit apparently did injure his

shoulder when Heyman wanted him to come to the building since he had no-showed his previous two bookings just so fans would know they weren't being screwed up but Benoit wouldn't come. Don't know what his future is as far as ECW but I suspect he'll still be around but I suspect his push is going to be strongly toned down. Jannetty simply no-showed with no explanation given and without even calling ahead to say he wasn't going to be there so that may be it for him. Luna legitimately had trans problems. Dangerously said that in Tod Gordon's last act as commissioner, that he had Bill Alfonso (who wasn't there because of vacation) escorted from the building. Then came the match where Jack turned heel. Feinstein then came out saying that backstage Francine and Beulah had continued to fight and ended up tearing each others' clothes off and he had footage of it bringing a tape he claimed was of it into the ring and saying he was going to sell it to the highest bidder. Fans pelted him with bottles and he dropped the tape, breaking it. 911 then choke slammed him a few times. Anyway, and this was part of the angle although very few knew about it ahead of time, one of the regular fans who helps set things up before the show got in the ring and 911 choke slammed him. What screwed that up was he took the choke slam, got up, and walked back to his seat which got 911 and Dangerously fuming because he forgot to stay down. So they had to drag him back in the ring and tell him to stay down, and then he jumped so high on a choke slam that he took the bump by himself which looked stupid as well. Most people in the building seem to think this wasn't an angle but it was. Then came the six-man with the Steiners. After the match the fans gave Guerrero another standing ovation. In a non-title match, Mikey Whipwreck (subbing for Jannetty) beat Sandman in a caning match. The original plan was for Whipwreck to do a run-in with the cane during the Jannetty match. Anyway, after Whipwreck won, he started giving Sandman shots with the cane. Sandman tried to cane Whipwreck but ref Jim Molinaux said if he did it he'd be stripped of the title. He didn't care but Woman did and talked him out of it. At this point Whipwreck kissed Woman and Sandman started killing him with the cane. Whipwreck made another comeback. Sandman stayed in the ring while Public Enemy came to the ring for their stretcher match with Gangstas. Sandman refused to leave and ended up caning Grunge in the face. New Jack and Grunge both went out on stretchers early and Rocco had Mustafa on a table and set up a chair to leap off when Sandman hit him with the cane. Rock was put on a stretcher but actually got off the stretcher. Whipwreck came out with a cane to clean house and they invited the fans in the ring to dance for the end of the show and Pit Bulls were in at the end as well.

People are raving about Too Cold Scorpio as a heel.

Another Malenko vs. Guerrero match, this time from Tampa, aired on this past week's television and it was another **** match.

8/26 at the ECW Arena besides Malenko vs. Guerrero will be Francine vs. Beulah, Public Enemy & Whipwreck vs. Sandman & Gangstas and possibly Taz vs. Scorpio and Pit Bulls vs. Raven & Richards although the latter two weren't definites as press time.

Heyman's views on trying to do a PPV show seem to have changed. He was dead set against it a few months back but now wants to open negotiations with Semaphore and/or TVKO.

AUGUST 21, 1995

Nothing has changed since last report regarding the ECW's status on Sunshine Network, Liberty Cable and Prime Cable, which are all deals aligned with one another. Because Sunshine was the only exposure in Florida, the mid-September Florida tour has been canceled. Paul Heyman and Tod Gordon will be flying to Florida for a meeting late this week to try and put the deal together. They were paying \$750 a week for Sunshine and \$1,000 a week for Prime, but to get the slots back they'll have to pay \$1,500 a week for Sunshine which Heyman said isn't economically feasible. Sunshine officials continue to tell ECW fans that call about the show that the show was canceled due to ECW cancelling its contract.

They are going to run a house show, although the site hasn't been confirmed, on 8/28, since a Japanese tour is coming in for SummerSlam so the show is designed for that group since they buy all the merchandise they can get their hands on. I suspect that whomever wins the Guerrero vs. Malenko match on 8/26 will be dropping the TV title on that show.

A few corrections from last week. The deal with Cactus Jack and Raven isn't a hypnotizing angle. During the match Raven kept beating on Cactus but Cactus wouldn't fight back, until the finish where Cactus turned on Tommy Dreamer just as he had Raven set up for a pin (in this feud Dreamer has yet to pin Raven) so it was Raven, and not Richards, who pinned Dreamer for the fall. Tod Gordon was at the show but stayed backstage.

The situation with Rob Feinstein is that ECW has a claim that Feinstein owes them money as well which is why the 8/1 payment didn't go. ECW, which pushes home video sales more than any other promotion, went on television on the 8/8 show and had Joey Styles tell viewers that Feinstein had been fired so tapes will be delivered on time. They actually weaved people's complaints about tapes being delivered late or of poor quality into the Feinstein storyline, turning him heel. Heyman said that there was such a high percentage of tapes that had to be re-dubbed for free due to poor quality and that with that money, which they didn't have a figure for, the amount due him would be substantially less than the \$6,000 he claimed was owed him.

Heyman, who had been against doing a PPV because he didn't think the company had enough exposure in major markets, has changed his tune and is trying to negotiate with a carrier to do a show as soon as feasible. He had talked of doing a triangular match with Benoit, Malenko and Guerrero after doing an angle where Benoit and Malenko would be turned into rivals, but that's all out the window at this stage.

AUGUST 28, 1995

Nothing new in regard to ECW getting back on Sunshine, Liberty and Prime Cable.

No house shows this past week but they've got three shows this coming weekend.

8/25 in Jim Thorpe, PA has Steiners vs. Dean Malenko & mystery partner (at press time it was scheduled to be Chris Benoit but Paul Heyman didn't want to advertise Benoit), Eddy Guerrero vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Tommy Dreamer vs. Dudley Dudley, Rocco Rock vs. Mustafa Saed, Johnny Grunge vs. New Jack and Sandman defending the ECW title (probably against Mikey Whipwreck but no opponent announced).

Matches added to the 8/26 ECW Arena show are Steiners vs. Scorpio & mystery partner (Benoit?), Raven & Richards defending the tag titles against Pit Bulls and a Danger Zone with Bill Alfonso.

The other show is 8/28 in Kennett Square, PA which is largely being put on because a lot of Japanese fans are coming in for SummerSlam and since the Japanese buy tons of merchandise ECW wanted a show for them to attend. It also works out since it's probably the final night they'll be able to use Guerrero and Malenko and since one of them has to win the 2/3 fall match on 8/26 and get the TV title, that person still has to lose the belt. Guerrero is booked against Scorpio on this show plus 911 vs. Cactus Jack, Pit Bulls vs. Raven & Richards, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas street fight, Sandman vs. Dreamer for the title and Steiners vs. Dudley Brothers.

SEPTEMBER 4, 1995

In what was described as the hottest ECW house show in months on 8/26 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia, Paul E. Dangerously announced he was declaring war on WCW.

Dangerously gave a speech of between 25 and 35 minutes swearing at WCW, Eric Bischoff and even Ted Turner and inciting the full house of about 1,150 (who hardly needed prompting) to chant things like Bischoff takes it in the ass and worse. Dangerously had the crowd in the palm of his hand even though the monologue segment went so long as he was on a roll. It was acknowledged at the show that Eddy Guerrero, Dean Malenko and Chris Benoit would be leaving for WCW with them trying to push the storyline idea that it was a New Japan deal coercing them to go as opposed to them simply leaving for a better financial opportunity. All three were given huge ovations and gave speeches saying how much they were fans of ECW and that they looked forward to some day coming back. After Guerrero wrestled Malenko, the babyface wrestlers, Tod Gordon and Heyman carried the two out on their shoulders in a very classy moment. Dangerously during his speech talked about some day hoping that all three would return and made the point of saying that all the other regulars like Public Enemy and 911 weren't going anywhere, that the Steiners were staying, and that they've reached a deal with AAA and that Rey Misterio Jr. would wrestle Psicosis on the next show (9/16). Heyman said he was annoyed that WCW had to bully the wrestlers to get them to sign, playing up the "storyline" aimed at smart marks of New Japan involvement somehow forcing the guys to go to WCW against their will when all three made the decision together and New Japan influence over the decision was minimal (the Steiners staying being proof of that). Heyman was told by Malenko and Kevin Sullivan that it was all a New Japan deal. I believe Sullivan told him that as a way to keep the peace since Kevin's wife works at ECW and Sullivan may need a job there if he becomes the next convenient scapegoat at WCW. After declaring war on WCW, he told fans that they're on television in Atlanta and that Bischoff would probably be watching (the odds of that are small because Bischoff never watches wrestling on television) and for the fans to give him a message and they chanted "ECW" and "F*** you" at "Bischoff."

There was nothing said and we've heard nothing confirmed past the rumor stage regarding Steve Williams, but Konnan is booked on the 10/7 ECW Arena show. The segment ended with Dangerously in a confrontation with Bill Alfonso, who said the choke slam had been banned in the state of Pennsylvania (funny, didn't Undertaker use it the next night in Pittsburgh?).

Alfonso used Dangerously's phone to knock down both he and Tod Gordon (who watched the card from the stands although Alfonso did announce that Gordon had been re-instated). 911 had Alfonso by the throat but wasn't allowed to choke slam him and wound up in a confrontation with Big Dick Dudley.

Guerrero, who dropped the ECW TV title to Too Cold Scorpio on 8/25 in Jim Thorpe, PA, went to a draw with Malenko with a double pin in the third fall of a match where both men got standing ovations coming out and at the finish as well. Malenko, whose gimmick was that he never spoke, talked for the first time praising ECW and its fans.

Scorpio had a meeting this past week with Kevin Sullivan and has another meeting to discuss contract terms this coming week with Bischoff. WCW is hopeful of bringing him in by late October or November.

The 8/26 arena show went four-and-a-half hours, ending at 12:08 a.m., and maintained the heat throughout. The main event saw Public Enemy & Mikey Whipwreck apparently beat Gangstas & Sandman when Whipwreck pinned Sandman, but heel ref Alfonso ordered the pin not to count and it would up with New Jack pinning Johnny Grunge in a wild brawl.

Other highlights of the 8/26 ECW Arena show. It opened with Hack Myers over J.T. Smith by count out. Val Puccio was at ringside eating cupcakes. Smith and Puccio wound up arguing outside the ring and Smith lost via count out. Smith and Puccio then joined forces to destroy Myers after the match. Raven & Steve Richards kept the tag titles beating Pit Bulls in a **** match. Richards kept begging Raven not to be tagged in against the Pit Bulls. Raven worked most of the early part. Finally Raven got mad and threw Richards into the ring where he was destroyed. Finish was Big Dick Dudley interfere dropping one of the Pit Bulls on the guard rail leading to the pin. After Tommy Dreamer's win over Dudley Dudley (Jeff Bradley), a fan in the front row dressed as a Dudley Brother was doing the sign gimmick (there is a fan in the front row at all ECW shows right in front of the camera who does signs named Tom Misnik). So he was doing heel signs. It ended with Dreamer throwing the "fan" (Lou D'Angelli, who has done work like photos for ECW) into the ring and hitting him with a chair and giving him a DDT on a chair and the "fan" did a stretcher job.

During the Guerrero-Malenko match, fans were chanting "Please don't go" and "Bischoff sucks." Malenko said he had reservations at first about coming to ECW because his style isn't appreciated in the U.S. but he appreciated how knowledgeable the fans in ECW were. Malenko and Guerrero hugged and the other wrestlers, Heyman and Tod Gordon carried them out on their shoulders to a standing ovation. The Beulah vs. Francine match saw Bill Alfonso come out saying that neither Jim Molineaux or John Finnegan couldn't ref because he checked with the commission and neither were licensed to referee womens matches. Alfonso said that Steve Richards would have to ref because he drove to Harrisburg early in the week to get his womens license. Richards did a hilarious trying to check the women for foreign objects. The match was worse then horrible, ending with both in their underwear which I guess means it's designed to sell videos. Francine had the advantage and Raven kept interfering keeping her from getting the pin. Richards got mad at Raven but Raven ordered Richards to superkick Francine, which he finally did. Then Beulah picked up Francine for a piledriver with Richards and Raven both spiking her driving down a leg. It's

going to end up as Raven & Richards & Beulah vs. Francine & Pit Bulls. Steiners vs. Benoit (who missed the show the previous night in Jim Thorpe) & Scorpio ended when Benoit & Scorpio had a falling out over getting in each others' way as they were about to do big moves. Finally Scorpio walked out, leaving Benoit to get double-teamed and pinned. After the match, the Steiners got on the house mic and said Scorpio was a pussy for leaving his partner, helped Benoit up and Benoit as a babyface made a farewell speech.

Last week's television aired the Steiners & Guerrero vs. Malenko & Scorpio & Cactus Jack match (****) in its entirety. Scott Steiner is bigger than ever.

The 8/28 show in Kennett Square, PA before 300 saw Francine interfere jumping Richards during the Pit Bulls vs. Raven & Richards tag title match. Cactus Jack pinned 911 in a bad match, but 911's feet were under the ropes and he choke slammed the ref afterwards. Highlight was Gangstas vs. Public Enemy. Grunge hurt his knee (I believe he needed a lot of stitches in the leg from something three nights earlier but did work the Philadelphia show) and took his shirt off and put it on Mikey Whipwreck to make him a member of Public Enemy. Grunge ended up interfering later in the match so Whipwreck could pin Mustafa.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1995

The 8/29 television show, which was almost totally dedicated to the final Eddy Guerrero vs. Dean Malenko match, was probably the best pro wrestling television show of the year at least in the United States. The show opened by hyping the 2/3 fall final match between the two. After an interview with Too Cold Scorpio where he laughed about both men leaving, they went into the ring introductions. They had Joey Styles do the introductions as opposed to regular ring announcer Bob Artese to show the event was special (similar to what WCW attempted to accomplish with Michael Buffer except people could see Buffer didn't know what he was talking about so it didn't work as well as it should have). Guerrero hugging Styles before the match reminded me of the first Terry Funk retirement show (that was in 1983) when Funk hugged ref Joe Higuchi. The match itself was around ***3/4, if anything held down a notch because Guerrero was visibly moved at certain points. Styles did his best job of commentating ever, making the very good match, but certainly nowhere near the level of the best matches these two have done on television, seem like a special event. In addition, he's the only American announcer who actually knows the name of any maneuver brought to this country in the last few years. If him getting announcer of the year last year was premature as many have said, between his improvement and the decline of the competition, I can't see anyone even close this year, at least speaking of the English language. Between the announcing and the atmosphere in the crowd (the sign guy had a great sign which said something like 91 days and counting, in reference to Malenko and Guerrero signing 90 day contracts with WCW) with the "please don't go" chants, it was so unlike the emotion that you normally see at pro wrestling that it is a must-see television show. The post-match was even better, with both men saying thank you to the fans and while the crowd was popping, Guerrero said something like, "Art, I hope I did you proud," as the storyline (and basically the truth as well) was that coming to ECW was Art Barr's idea because his goal was to be a star in the United States. The show ended with Guerrero hugging one fan after another on his way out with Guerrero and many fans close to tears.

It appears the 9/16 show at the ECW Arena will be Raven & Steve Richards defending the tag titles against Pit Bulls in a double dog collar match which will be Pit Bulls' last shot at the titles, Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis and Gangstas & Sandman vs. Public Enemy & Mikey Whipwreck in a cage match.

Ian Rotten is gone, apparently quitting on 8/28 at the Kennett Square show over his weekend payoffs (which was said to be \$350 for three shots).

Expect The Eliminators (Perry Saturn & John Kronus) to come in. I don't know if it's a definite, but if they do, expect them to be given a different gimmick.

Konnan debuts on the 10/7 show and will probably feud with Scorpio.

A correction from last week's issue. The guy who does the signs in the front row is not Tom Misnick. Misnick is a different ringside regular at the arena. Thanks to those who informed us of the error.

In response to the letter from Jason Petaccio in last week's Observer, Paul Heyman said, "Jason Petaccio has a 100% rock-solid valid claim in that he is owed money. I agree with him. I'm even on his side. The only problem is that he's owed the money not by Paul Heyman, Tod Gordon, HHG or ECW but by Global Distributions. On June 9 at Drexel University, I sat down in front of Taz, Tommy Dreamer, Gabe Sapolsky, Rob Feinstein and Jason's brothers and said to him to file suit and I will testify for you. I even offered him the name of two attorneys in Pennsylvania who would take the case on a contingency (no money up front, lawyers get paid only upon collection of the award) basis. The offer still stands. I will be more than happy to testify for Jason. He's owed the money by Global Distributions, which is one step from legal proceedings with me. I've told him to file a lawsuit and to call me as a witness and I will testify for him." Heyman claimed that he couldn't fire Richard Freedburg, who runs Global and he claims is the one who owes not only Petaccio but also ECW money because they haven't received merchandise revenue in four weeks because of the nature of the deal he struck with Tod Gordon last December. On the other hand, there are others besides those who have written letters here who claim ECW has owed them money for months.

ECW is supposed to be back on the Prime Network starting this coming week although if you call Prime, they were denying that story.

Lots of talk about ECW opening up a building near Forest Hills, NY in a vacant warehouse and turning it into a New York version of the ECW Arena starting in October. They also have a 9/23 date in Middletown, NY.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1995

No shows this past week.

9/15 in Jim Thorpe, PA has Too Cold Scorpio vs. Scott Steiner for the TV title, Dudley Brothers vs. Public Enemy, Tommy Dreamer & Mikey Whipwreck vs. Gangstas, Hack Myers vs. J.T. Smith in a no DQ match and Pit Bulls & Francine vs. Raven & Steve Richards & Beulah on top.

Added to the 9/16 ECW Arena show is Too Cold Scorpio and a mystery team (probably The Eliminators with a new gimmick) vs. Steiners & Taz.

9/23 in Middletown, NY has Sandman vs. Whipwreck for the ECW title, Public Enemy vs. Gangstas in falls count anywhere with both Bill Alfonso and 911 as referees, Cactus Jack vs. Myers, Raven & Richards defending against the Steiners and Scorpio vs. Dreamer for the TV title.

SEPTEMBER 25, 1995

The Pit Bulls won the ECW tag titles from Raven & Steve Richards on the 9/16 ECW Arena show which featured the debut of Rey Misterio Jr. and Psicosis, who did a 10:38 bout rated between *** and ****. There was a situation the afternoon of the show involving Mustafa Saed of the Gangstas (Jamaal Mustafa) where he apparently freaked out in the hotel (Travelodge in South Philadelphia) and several police officers were called and hauled him out. He was released that night but missed the show so Too Cold Scorpio ended up teaming with New Jack and Sandman losing the main event cage match to Mikey Whipwreck & Public Enemy when Whipwreck pinned Sandman after a splash off the top of the cage.

Thus far announced for 10/7 are Taz vs. Jason (who returned on 9/16 as the manager of The Eliminators, who debuted without a change in gimmick), Pit Bulls defending the tag titles against Raven & Richards with Tod Gordon and Bill Alfonso as referees and 911 and Big Dick Dudley at ringside acting as lumberjacks and Sandman defending the ECW title against Whipwreck. There will probably be a gimmick match with Public Enemy vs. Gangstas and a two of three fall match with Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis plus possibly Scorpio vs. Konnan and Tommy Dreamer vs. Cactus Jack (the latter two matches may not take place and be built up for the following show since Paul Heyman is pretty confident of a sellout with what he's finalized and may want to hold the Dreamer-Cactus bout back).

They have at least two more Dudley Brothers, a guy doing an Indian gimmick as Dances with Dudleys (who used to work IWCCW as part of the tag team called the Sioux War Party) and Chubby Dudley (he used to work Pennsylvania indies as part of the Hell Riders tag team) along with Sign Guy Dudley (Lou D'Angelli) being back.

Cactus Jack has been doing by far the best interviews anyone has been doing in a long time on the past two weeks television shows.

9/16 show before another sellout estimated at 1,175 fans saw Bull Pain beat Tony Stetson; Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley beat Don E. Allen & Chad Austin with Big Dick Dudley (who has a blown out knee and can't work) and Chubby Dudley at ringside. Hack Myers beat J.T. Smith via count out. Smith is doing very well as a heel with the gimmick that he misses spots left and right so the crowd can chant "You f***ed up" at him. Smith slipped off the top rope and fell to the floor to lose the match. The crowd was also chanting "J.T. has a woody" and Smith got on the house mic and said it wasn't his fault he was hung like a horse. Steiners & Taz were supposed to face Too Cold and a mystery team, but instead The Eliminators came out with Jason (returning manager Jason Knight) as their partner. The gimmick is that Taz is too injured to be in the ring, which is apparently the truth, and he wasn't in until the finish. Eliminators did some things well and Steiners sold a lot for them, but also missed a lot of spots. Jason, who juiced, wound

up pinning Taz after Scorpio interfered. Pit Bulls winning the tag titles in a double dog collar match where they had to break up if they lost (which pretty well telegraphed the eventual result) ended up being two of three falls. First Richards wouldn't come out and Raven came out by himself. Beulah McGillicuddy said Raven would face both and defend the titles but wanted it two of three falls. The first two falls were quickies going 2:10 and 1:33 with Raven & Richards winning the first and losing the second. Actually Pit Bull #1 left the ring during the first fall to get Richards and Raven pinned PB #2. PB #1 dragged Richards into the match and quickly juiced him like crazy and pinned him to win the fall. In the third fall, The Dudleys interfered. Beulah and Francine got involved with Raven giving Francine a DDT. Pit Bulls then super bombed both Dudleys. Raven then put one of the Pit Bulls out with either outside the ring but he had his leg caught up in the guard rail so he couldn't be put into the ring to be pinned. Dreamer then came to ringside and put the collar on and it wound up with Dreamer pinning Raven to apparently win the title. However, Alfonso came out and erased the fall saying Dreamer wasn't signed to be in the match. Tod Gordon did a run-in arguing with Alfonso. Big Dick Dudley came out and choke-slammed Dreamer and they asked what Alfonso was going to do because the choke slam was banned. Alfonso said he's rescinded the ban on the choke slam just for this night which of course brought out 911 to finally choke slam Alfonso which is what they've been building to for months so it got the expected lengthy pop. As all this was going on the Pit Bulls super bombed Raven & Richards (Richards on Raven's shoulders) through a table for the third fall pin. They wound up breaking five tables in the match.

Misterio Jr. beat Psicosis in a match which started slow but they did all kinds of great moves and got over huge. Highlights were Psicosis going for a tope but Misterio Jr. grabbing a chair and swinging it like a baseball bat to hit Psicosis. The other highlight was Misterio Jr. doing a springboard plancha into somewhere between the second and fifth row onto Psicosis (depending on how many generations old the story became). Misterio Jr. won with a Frankensteiner off the top. They started slow because they were told to calm the crowd down from the previous match, and after 4:00 to turn it on which is basically what they did.

Highlight of the cage match saw three tables stacked up on each other and Scorpio and Rocco Rock were fighting on top of the cage and somehow bearhugged each other off the cage through all three tables. The match had five-way juice and lots of brawling outside the ring even though it was a cage match. By the time the show was over, they had broken 15 tables and nine guys had juiced.

According to Heyman, Richard Freedburg, who handled the merchandise and Global Distributions, have been removed from the company and to expect legal action stemming from it because they are behind paying ECW their share for merchandise. Heyman is coming out with his own ECW merchandise this week.

Scott Steiner no-showed the 9/15 show in Jim Thorpe, PA because he had been booked in Cordele, GA so his TV title match with Scorpio wound up with Whipwreck as a sub. Refunds were offered although nobody asked for them.

Lance Wright, who is now doing the local promos on the television show is a former Titan production assistant who was part of the group let go in the most recent layoff.

ECW will be on at 1 a.m. Sundays every week on MSG cable through the end of October.

OCTOBER 2, 1995

Steve Austin appeared on the 9/23 ECW house show in Middletown, NY and will make his first appearance on the television show this coming week.

Austin, fired on 9/15 by WCW, is still about six weeks away from getting back in the ring because of a torn tricep suffered while on a tour with New Japan. Austin, who will be billed as "The Extreme Superstar," a combination spoof on WWF calling all its wrestlers Superstars and perhaps as a modern day Billy Graham, is no doubt going to be pushed as ECW world champion as soon as they can viably get the belt on him. As of this point, there are no serious negotiations that I know of between Austin and All Japan, which would enable Austin to remain long-term with ECW and still make a major league living at wrestling. Obviously his long-term tenure in ECW will be based on whether or not either the group improves itself to the point he can make a competitive living with it, or he can use ECW as a supplement to a regular Japan gig. In his first television interview, Austin mocked Hulk Hogan by calling himself "The Stevester" and that "Steve-o-mania" was running wild and said that it was unfortunate that he wasn't a good enough wrestler to get past mid-card in WCW.

Line-ups for the weekend shows are 10/6 in Jim Thorpe, PA with Public Enemy vs. Raven & Steve Richards in a double tables match, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Tommy Dreamer for the TV title, Pit Bulls defending the tag titles, Jason & Eliminators vs. Taz & 911 & Mikey Whipwreck, Gangstas vs. Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley and Cactus Jack vs. Hack Myers.

10/7 at the ECW Arena is Sandman vs. Whipwreck for the ECW title, Scorpio vs. J.T. Smith for the TV title, Pit Bulls vs. Raven & Richards for the tag titles with 911 and Big Dick Dudley at ringside and Tod Gordon and Bill Alfonso as referees, Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis 2 of 3 falls, Konnan vs. Dudley Dudley, Taz vs. Jason and Eliminators vs. Dudleys.

ECW starts on the America One network which is a series of low power stations on Friday nights at 7 p.m. starting this coming week. They'll also be on full power stations in Reading, PA, Dallas, Flagstaff, AZ, Kannapolis, NC, Kenosha, WI, St. George, UT, Holly Springs, TN and Cordele, GA.

The only house show of the week was in Middletown, NY with the Steve Austin debut. Cactus Jack started his new gimmick of turning on hardcore fans. He wrestled the entire much scientifically, not doing any of his normal maneuvers. He'd tease punching and using chairs and then not throw the blows and would tell fans they don't deserve to see blood. Later in the show, when Scorpio was defending the TV title against Dreamer, Jack DDT'd Dreamer to set up Scorpio's win. Sandman and Whipwreck turned their match into a ladder match and Sandman climbed the ladder to the ceiling and did a legdrop hanging from the ceiling and Whipwreck did a Frankensteiner off the ladder.

Cactus Jack did one of the greatest interviews in the history of wrestling on the 9/19 television show. I write that every week, but he tops himself every week. The show also aired the Raven & Richards title loss to the Pit Bulls which was an elaborate booking job with numerous twists and turns leading

to Tod Gordon counting the three count after a super bomb with Richards on Raven's shoulders as both were thrown down off the corner post.

La Parka may debut on the 10/28 show although I'm not sure that's a definite.

There were no police charges filed against Mustafa stemming from his conduct where the police hauled him out of the Philadelphia Travel Lodge and he was back in action over the weekend.

They are scheduled for monthly shows at the Casino Magic in Bay St. Louis, MS starting on 11/9 and are looking at doing monthly stops there and in Baton Rouge.

OCTOBER 9, 1995

No shows this past weekend. Added to the 10/7 ECW Arena show will be a Public Enemy vs. Gangstas match which will actually be a street fight on the street, held out doors on a trestle which is about a block from the arena. I think they are going to set up a ring there but I'm not even sure of that.

The Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis match (****1/4) aired on the 9/26 television show and besides the match itself being great, Joey Styles did one hell of a job of commentary. I'd say the presentation and hype of new wrestlers of this match as opposed to the job WCW has done in introducing new wrestlers who can really wrestle has been about a 180 degree difference.

Don't expect to see Sabu back after all. Sabu is working on 10/28 for Dennis Coraluzzo in Woodbury, NJ which is the same date as an ECW Arena show and Paul Heyman is pretty adamant is Sabu works against him that he's not going to bring him back, figuring that the way things are going for each, that Sabu needs him more than he needs Sabu. Incidentally, WCW has sent Sabu a contract but he hasn't signed it yet.

OCTOBER 16, 1995

Among other notes from the 10/7 show at the ECW Arena, which didn't end until 12:30 a.m., saw the Eliminators (Perry Saturn & John Kronus of WAR) look impressive in a squash win over Tony Stetson & Chad Austin. Taz beat Jason in less than one minute. After the match, a small newcomer named Pablo Pena (who I believe works as Ubas, which is Sabu spelled backwards on Pennsylvania indies) did a springboard plancha on Jason. Cactus Jack then beat the guy doing his gimmick of nothing but restholds. After the match, Jack, Tommy Dreamer and Raven got into it with Raven hitting Dreamer with a chair but Jack leaving rather than using a chair. Jack came back with his arm wrapped in barbed wire and did an elbow off the second rope through a table to Dreamer. It should be noted that they broke even more tables on this show than the previous one including tables breaking in just about every match on the card. Konnan beat Dudley Dudley in a poor match which saw both men booed and people chant "You both suck." After the match Konnan got on the house mic and said next time he comes to Philadelphia that Paul E. Dangerously and Tod Gordon better get him someone who could wrestle or he'd never come back again. This drew some heat with some of the wrestlers since Jeff Bradley has his friends. Psicosis and Rey Jr. then tore the house down. Even though people were in to most of the rest of the show,

nobody could follow these guys and the heat the rest of the show was disappointing. Too Cold Scorpio pinned J.T. Smith in about 1:00 when Smith held a chair and tried a moonsault and missed (giving the fans a chance to chant "You F---ed up") and was pinned. Smith did a stretcher job. Hack Myers came out and challenged Scorpio but Scorpio won again with a moonsault legdrop. Before the Sandman vs. Mikey Whipwreck match, Steve Austin (who is still at least a month away from wrestling) got in the ring and challenged Sandman and they did a pull-apart. In the course of the pull-apart, Sandman and Konnan went at it and also had a pull-apart with Konnan beating up several jobbers in the process which was basically Paul Heyman's last minute idea to get him over since his match wasn't good. The Sandman-Whipwreck title match had some good spots and some sloppy spots. Austin threw a ladder in and they tried to do spots with the ladder but a lot of them missed. Sandman won but the finish looked weak so they were ordered back in the ring. Sandman won again, but this restart didn't get over despite both men working very hard.

There was another Dudley brothers called Bubba Ray Dudley. After the match where Raven & Richards regained the tag titles, 911 choke slammed all the Dudleys including Sign Guy Dudley (Lou D'Angelis) but not Big Dick Dudley. Most of the match was 2-on-1 because Pit Bull #1 has a torn tricep and had no business working so they injured him immediately. They were breaking tables left and right in the match. After Alfonso beat up Gordon, he put Gordon on a table, but instead of jumping on the table, he just tipped the table over.

Cactus Jack did another of those best interviews in the history of pro wrestling on the 10/3 television show.

Several checks from the house show 9/22 in Middletown, NY bounced. Paul Heyman said that his car was broken into and his briefcase, which had his checkbook and records, was stolen so he had to close the account but tried to contact everyone and send new checks out and most guys were contracted before the weekend.

What appears to be the situation with Austin is that he was scheduled for a meeting on 10/10 with Vince McMahon. He's also got talks scheduled with All Japan. If he works out a deal there, the odds are great he'll work here and be world champion and pushed as the star of the promotion. If not, it's inevitable just from a money standpoint and the fact the WWF badly needs heels who can work and young stars and right now there isn't a long list of people who can fill that bill that he'll end up with WWF.

10/27 in Kennett Square, PA has Public Enemy vs. Sandman & Scorpio for the tag titles, Steiners & Taz vs. Dudleys (Dudley Dudley, D.W. Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley), Dreamer vs. Raven falls count anywhere and Whipwreck vs. Richards.

OCTOBER 23, 1995

No shows this past weekend.

The Gangstas were officially fired over the incident in Jim Thorpe, PA last week.

On the TV show this week, Taz did an interview talking about Lou Thesz being his childhood hero. There is some talk they will be doing segments with Thesz training Taz and that Thesz may be brought to the ECW arena as Taz' second. I can just

imagine Thesz' reaction to what goes on there. Taz is still badly hurt and can't do any suplexes because of his bad neck (which is basically his entire arsenal), and is now using the choke as a finisher which is legal under the lenient ECW rules (it was pretty much explained like that by Joey Styles when he used it on Jason in the match on TV this past week).

Steve Austin and Cactus Jack both did killer interviews on the past weekend's television. Austin basically talked about being held back in WCW and how all the promotions have been calling him but he decided to go to ECW because Tod Gordon must have taken out another mortgage on his house to pay him. Austin talked about how he was fired in WCW from a phone call by Eric Bischoff's secretary and contrasted it to the way Dean Malenko and Eddy Guerrero left ECW. He still ran down ECW saying it was a bunch of violent crap. The only problem with all this is that it appears likely Austin is going to wind up with the WWF as he has a second meeting scheduled this week so aside from a few great interviews, not much in the long run is going to materialize from this.

Even though Paul Heyman gave an explanation about the bounced checks from the Middletown, NY show, at least some of the wrestlers are even more concerned about the future of the company since many have been calling both WWF and WCW looking for work.

The wrestler who Cactus Jack wrestled on the last show that we reported the name of as Pablo Pena was actually called El Puerto Rican.

Some additions to the 10/28 show. In the Scorpio vs. Rocco Rock match for the TV title, if Scorpio wins, he gets the tag team title as well and can pick his partner. Also Johnny Grunge vs. Steve Richards and the loser has to wear a dress in what is billed as a Raggedyass Ho match.

The 11/3 show in Reading, PA which was supposed to be a combined ECW and PCW show is now just a PCW show.

OCTOBER 30, 1995

No shows this weekend with two cards this coming weekend including ECW Arena.

The Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis 2/3 fall match aired on the 10/17 television show in its entirety. I'd give it ****3/4. It was a better match for Philadelphia than the Mexico City or Tijuana matches would have been. However, the Mexico City and Tijuana matches were better matches for their city. Mexico City was technically the best match of the three as far as actual wrestling and psychology. Tijuana was the most amazing performance because they were wrestling in a damp ring that everyone else on the card couldn't keep their footing in and they were doing all their moves and didn't miss a spot, plus had one incredible dive after another and had the best finish and biggest pop at the end. Philadelphia had great dives and more brawling but no mat wrestling and less psychology, but the fans there want constant action so they adjusted their style for the audience they were playing to. Philadelphia also had the advantage of having Joey Styles call the match. He's able to get wrestlers with a different style over in one match, something WCW can't do with wrestlers every bit as good if they put them on television every week for a year. All three matches were fantastic and they were three entirely different matches done in a three week period. Actually, one person told

me that they had a match in Mexicali that went four falls that was the best of all of them.

NOVEMBER 6, 1995

A combination of a fire, the lights going out, and fire extinguishers being sprayed led to a panic at the end of the 10/28 ECW Arena show in Philadelphia.

The strange incident could have had serious, and even dire repercussions. But it actually ended with few serious injuries stemming from an angle that went awry combining with a planned angle resulting in mass panic among the fans. Irate fans left phone messages here and to many other places vowing never to return because of the belief the promotion was responsible for putting people's lives in danger to get an angle over and had pushed the envelope way too far, but most believe the nature of the ECW audience is such that the next show will sellout anyway.

After the final match of the show where Tommy Dreamer (Tom Laughlin), with Terry Funk in his corner, pinned Cactus Jack (Michael Foley), with Raven in his corner, the heels doubled on Funk who left for the dressing room. The two them destroyed a badly bloody Dreamer, who had broken his nose legit earlier in the match. Funk came out with his branding iron on fire and chased Jack and Raven. Jack went back and came out with a chair with a cloth or shirt that had lighter fluid or kerosene on it being in flames. Jack hit Dreamer with the chair and his shirt caught on fire momentarily. Apparently the chair was supposed to be thrown by Jack to the ropes as a tease at Funk but not meant to hit anyone. Instead, it, the cloth wound up on Funk, who immediately went up in flames from head-to-toe with his shirt burning instantaneously. Jack immediately tried to put the fire out which of course would be breaking character. Apparently the reaction from Funk, who was on fire, in getting the cloth off him, led to cloth winding up in the first row where the flames grew larger a fan caught on fire although every story was different in exactly what led to the cloth being in the front row and Funk wasn't even sure. The ring also caught on fire, possibly from the remnants of the kerosene that was used by Rocco Rock in the previous match, and since it is made of plywood underneath, the potential of what could have happened was scary and they were very lucky nothing happened any more serious than what did. At the same time this was going on, there was a planned angle to have the lights go out, and when they were put back on, Dreamer would be hung from the Eagle's Nest by his hands spread apart in a crucifixion style by Raven, which is exactly what happened. However, with the fire in the front row, the lights went out to do the angle, and others started spraying the place with fire extinguishers. There was a panic in the crowd, however most reports were that the fans left the building without much pushing and shoving and people weren't trampled on in an escape to get out although there was a lot of chair throwing. Numerous fans were coughing badly outside the building from the fire extinguisher and fire fumes and a few had minor cuts and bruises because of being hit with chairs. There were fans hit by chairs who were bleeding but none were injured seriously. At most only one or two were hospitalized. The backstage crew, after killing the power to do the angle, which caused the panic, was apparently unable to get the lights on quick enough. It appeared the most serious injuries to a fan was a hand burn from the fire by a ringside regular who was hospitalized, and Funk, who received second degree burns on his arm and back. There were also reports of cars vandalized in the parking lot and at least one car which was stolen. Fans near the fire panicked and numerous fans outside the building

were furious blaming the promotion and Heyman for leading to a situation that got out of hand, with most of the complaints about the decision to turn the lights off to do the angle while a fire was still burning. Some, who weren't close to the fire and were in the arena viewing, were chanting "ECW, ECW" thinking it was a great finish to the show. Calls to ECW the next day ranged from people who swore they would never return to those who thought it was the greatest thing they had ever seen. Funk was immediately furious after the match because of how everything went down and the fact he was badly burned and basically destroyed the dressing room including throwing an electric fan through a table and chairs everywhere, before calming down and apologizing to everyone. Funk actually requested he wrestle on the 11/18 show because he felt he needed to because it was important for ECW to get fans back for the next show, so the next show will have Funk & Dreamer vs. Raven & Cactus Jack. Heyman, who didn't want to make any comments about the situation until reviewing all the films, had told people after the show that it would be the last time fire would be used as a prop on an ECW show.

Reports are it was a good show up until that point, which featured Mikey Whipwreck (John Watson) capturing the ECW title in a ladder match from The Sandman, Too Cold Scorpio both retaining the TV title and winning the tag title (picking Sandman to be his new partner) by beating Rocco Rock of Public Enemy when Rock missed a drive by on a lit table and was pinned, and Konnan & Rey Misterio Jr. winning via count out in an impromptu finish over Psicosis & La Parka when Psicosis did a tope into a chair swing by Misterio and it split his lip all the way to his nostrils and he received plastic surgery that night in the hospital. Dreamer also received a broken nose in his match.

In the highlights of the stuff that was supposed to happen on 10/28 before the usual sellout crowd of 1,150 fans, Scorpio won the tag titles for himself and Sandman when Rocco Rock basically went through a table on fire lit his leg on fire in doing so in 24:54. At first Scorpio raised Rock's hand and acted as if he wasn't going to accept the victory in this manner, then clotheslined him and pinned him. During the match Scorpio moonsaulted off the stage onto Rock through two tables. The crowd spent most of the match chanting names of black wrestlers at Scorpio such as Virgil, Zeus and JYD. After Sandman dropped the title to Whipwreck in the ladder match which included Sandman getting busted open hardway, during the next two matches, which were J.T. Smith vs. El Puerto Rican and D.W. Dudley vs. Hack Myers, Sandman quickly did a run-in and caned the hell out of both guys. He tried to do the same thing in the Scorpio match, but Johnny Grunge fought him off to keep him from interfering. Sandman was basically the star of the show. The ladder match contained some crazy spots and some missed spots. The match where the loser had to wear a dress saw Johnny Grunge beat Steve Richards. On TV the week before, Jason asked if he could wear the dress if Richards lost and Richards agreed to it, so Jason not only wound up wearing the dress, but also a wig and lipstick and was acting as if he was getting off on wearing womens clothes, so 911 choke slammed him. The Konnan & Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis & La Parka match was rated between *** and ****1/4. There were a lot of good dives. The finish didn't go as planned. They had to go home early as they did a spot where both Psicosis and Parka did topes and were to be simultaneously hit by chairs coming through by Konnan and Misterio. Misterio hit Psicosis wrong and split his face open from his mouth up to his nostril. They did one quick Misterio dive onto both of them and the count out finish. The fans booed the finish because it was a

count out and were chanting "Dusty finish." Apparently some were mad because they were counted out with a ten count instead of a 20 count as would be the case in Mexican rules. They also did an angle early in the show where Jason came out and wanted to manage the Pit Bulls again, and called current manager Francine a prostitute. The Eliminators then attacked the Pit Bulls, leaving Rick Steiner & Taz to make the save and they did a short brawl, ending with the Pit Bulls attacking Eliminators and a three count was counted. The Steiners-Eliminators match never took place because Scott had the stomach flu and missed the show, and Taz really isn't ready to work a match.

The other weekend house show was 10/27 in Kennett Square, PA before 250 fans with no great matches but the show was saved by some post-match brawls. Konnan had a match with Cactus Jack which went 3:52 before half the dressing room came out and Big Dick Dudley and 911 wound up choke slamming almost everyone in sight. When 911 went to choke slam Big Dick, he was hit with a crutch. Axl Rotten and Tommy Dreamer carried Konnan on their shoulders and got the fans to chant "he's hardcore" at him. At both shows, Cactus Jack got on the house mic and told the fans they should go home and watch Movies for Men who like Movies on TBS.

Some talk of Missy Hyatt coming in to work mixed tags with Bill Alfonso against Tod Gordon and Beulah, maybe as early as December.

Next ECW Arena show is 11/18 with Funk & Dreamer vs. Raven & Cactus, Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis in a death match, Eliminators vs. Pit Bulls, Gordon vs. Alfonso, Sandman & Scorpio defending against Public Enemy, Whipwreck defending the ECW title and Steve Austin (who won't be going to WWF any time soon) making his in-ring debut and possibly Chris Jericho vs. Konnan.

11/3 in Reading, PA has Dreamer vs. Cactus with the man who throws the first punch losing, Public Enemy vs. Raven & Richards, Scorpio defending TV title against Taz (who isn't ready for a regular match yet), Pit Bulls (one of whom also isn't ready for a regular match yet) vs. Dudleys, Sandman vs. Hack Myers and Whipwreck defending against Jason.

11/4 in Glenolden, PA has Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Raven & Richards & Cactus, Whipwreck vs. Sandman for the title, Scorpio defending TV title against 911 with Taz as ref and Public Enemy vs. Dudleys.

11/17 in Jim Thorpe, PA will have Whipwreck defending against Misterio.

NOVEMBER 13, 1995

The Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission has scheduled a closed-door meeting regarding ECW for 11/9 after it received numerous complaints regarding the fire going out of control combined with the lights being turned off at the 10/28 ECW Arena show.

Very little else is known right now regarding possible sanctions, if any, that would be considered regarding the promotion. Pennsylvania deregulated pro wrestling to an extent several years ago due to a lobbying effort by Titan Sports. The commission still gets a tax cut but basically no longer enforces any rules. There was a period where James J. Binns ran the

commission's operation in the Philadelphia area, and after being freaked out at a Jim Crockett show years ago when Crockett and Dusty Rhodes were running bloodfest shows in Philadelphia, cracked down on blading. During a show at Veterans Stadium years ago before what was at the time the largest house in the history of the state of \$238,000 (a record since broken by WWF PPV events in both Philadelphia and Pittsburgh), Wahoo McDaniel did one of his blade jobs and the blade ended up getting caught in his forehead. Binns at first was going to stop the card at that moment (Wahoo was in an early match on the show) but was talked out of it but banned blading. When the commission was deregulated, because blading had become an issue in the political fight, Pennsylvania enacted a law making it illegal for wrestlers to blade, a law that as everyone knows has been adhered to by all promotions since that time which pretty much tells the tale of commission involvement today in the pro wrestling scene.

According to ringsiders, what actually happened was that the towel drenched in kerosene and lighter fluid that was on fire on the chair ripped apart with a small portion of it catching on Terry Funk's back and arms and a larger portion going into the front row causing a pretty big fire. At roughly the same time as fire extinguishers were being sprayed to the point that people were choking on the fumes, the lights were shut off to do the crucifixion angle.

The biggest news from here is that Public Enemy had a meeting with Vince McMahon on 11/2 about coming in. While no deal is confirmed right now, it is generally believed both sides were happy with the meeting and it's more likely a question of when rather than if. The meeting was set up through Paul Heyman as WWF has told Heyman they don't want to hurt his group or go behind his back. Most likely how it'll turn out is that Titan won't bring Public Enemy in until Heyman can finish them off in his storyline, which looks to be late January. Again most likely the two will continue to use the names Rocco Rock & Johnny Grunge and do a similar character, but not use the name Public Enemy. The fact that both WWF and WCW were so hot to pick these guys up shows what a master manipulator Heyman really is, since he's the only one in wrestling of late who has really been able to create several new characters successfully. He's so good that even people who run wrestling companies haven't figured out that the guys he's gotten over are done more by him than through the guys actually being good workers and through things that wouldn't even be allowed within their groups. Rocco Rock is a decent worker with the willingness to do crazy stunts to get over that WWF and WCW would never let anyone do on their shows. Johnny Grunge got over on having lengthy interviews and blading. They've had great brawls by doing things like blading and breaking tables which isn't allowed in WWF or WCW. That and the interviews and skits are how they got over. No doubt if they come in and dance, the people will dance with them in WWF but that simply makes them The Bushwhackers or P.N. News. There's nothing wrong with that. If all sides can make money, that's what having a job and running a business are all about. But there are people who are fooled into believing these guys are better workers than teams like the Heavenly Bodies or Smoking Gunns. That's to Heyman's credit. He also got a lot of people to believe Sabu was the best worker in the business last year, who probably now realize just how far from the mark that really was.

WWF seems to have lost interest in 911, however.

The most talked about thing on this past week's television was Steve Austin. Austin wore a black wig impersonating Eric

Bischoff's announcing on "Monday Nyquil," "where the big boys play with each other." He got in some funny lines including pretending to fall asleep calling the matches because the matches are so boring, building up a match with Geritol on top of a pole for all the "old codgers" in WCW and making light of Bischoff not being able to call matches because he doesn't know any of the moves. Later in the show from the last ECW Arena show, he climbed the ladder before the Mikey Whipwreck vs. Sandman title change match and insulted Woman calling her a "\$5 piece of ass" and saying that she married a midget. Needless to say, this didn't go over very well in the WCW office. Give Woman credit for being professional enough to go along with something she couldn't have been thrilled with doing because it's the direction the booker wants to go in.

At least two other ECW names are said to be close to joining WCW, close enough that storylines have already been prepared for them.

They ran two house shows over the weekend. On 11/3 in Reading, PA before 300 it was described as one of the worst ECW house shows to date and basically on par with a WWF house show for work because the commission was there and they cut way back on brawling and didn't do any blading or break any tables. Local wrestlers Bad Crew worked the show. Public Enemy beat Raven & Richards on top in a match that was the closest thing to saving the show. Taz was advertised to face Scorpio for the TV title, but the faces all held him back and the ref said the commission wouldn't allow him to wrestle because of his neck injury and Axl Rotten took his place.

On 11/4 in Glenolden, PA, they had what was described as a typical ECW spot show before 250 fans with Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer over Raven & Richards & Cactus Jack on top, and Whipwreck keeping the title beating Sandman.

Sandman has been living in Utah the past several weeks having taken a construction job there and is being flown in every weekend.

Missy Hiatt has told people she won't be coming in after all.

An 11/23 show in Danbury, CT has a cage match with stipulations to be announced with Dreamer & Public Enemy & Pit Bulls vs. Cactus & Raven & Richards & Sandman & Scorpio, Whipwreck defending against Austin, Eliminators vs. Dudleys and 911 vs. four men.

NOVEMBER 20, 1995

A hearing was held on 11/9 regarding ECW with the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission in Harrisburg, PA regarding the incident on the 10/28 show where they turned the lights off during the fire angle.

Officially, the meeting was confidential and all that has officially come out of the meeting is that the state attorney general and lawyers for both sides are reviewing punishment, which would be made public in two weeks. From our sources, it appears that Ed Zohn, who was the promoter of record for the ECW show, will be fined, technically for not having a doctor at the show in violation of state law for pro wrestling. Since the commission for the most part stopped regulating what went in within pro wrestling a few years back, they were powerless to fine anyone else although it is said that Paul Heyman was told

in no uncertain terms that if another incident were to occur like this that ECW would be shut down. Heyman has told numerous people since the 10/28 show that he would never use fire again in one of his angles. There are reports that Zohn and ECW have split and that either Tod Gordon will get a promoters' license or ECW will use another local promoters' license, however reports that the commission or the fire marshall have ordered the group not to put more than 700 fans in the ECW Arena in the future appear to be not true.

There is also a good chance several of ECW's top regular acts will be leaving shortly. The situation with Public Enemy has changed somewhat since last week. Kevin Sullivan offered the two a six-month contract to join WCW. Reports from those close to the two indicate they may, if anything, be slightly leaning toward WCW rather than WWF because the wrestlers they've talked within WWF gave them less than favorable versions of the current situation, there were less teams to work with, and on the surface it appeared working for the WWF meant working more dates on the road for less money. There are other considerations in WCW's favor, and also in WWF's favor, they do a better job of getting acts over, and Ted Petty, who is now 43, has had a goal for nearly the past 20 years of getting to the WWF. Reports are that WWF would use them as a tag team called Assault & Battery, while WCW's idea was to give them the tag team name The Mac Daddy's, both keeping the same basic gimmick. Heyman, who claims ECW is on the verge of doing a PPV show, wants to keep them at least through mid-January, or longer if they can secure a PPV date.

The other name who met with Titan this past week was Cactus Jack. Jack, who has just moved from New York to Atlanta, was thought due to his look and style to be a wrestler the WWF would never be interested in, but times have changed. He was said to be very close to going with some saying it could be shortly after Royal Rumble. Heyman supposedly told WWF officials, which have been attempting to make friends rather than enemies, that he didn't want to lose Jack until he could properly finish this current program, which he said would be April of 1996 and WWF said they were in no hurry to bring him in. WWF is also looking at ECW as a place where they can send their own wrestlers to get work next year since they aren't going to be running as many house shows and guys are already complaining about not getting enough dates. Jack is long-time good friends with Troy Martin (WWF's Dean Douglas), who is well-known to be unhappy with his situation with Titan, which may prove to be a factor as well.

Woman (Nancy Sullivan), is almost certainly headed to WCW after the first of the year. If Sherri Martel is phased out, Woman will manage Harlem Heat. If not, the word is that she'll be brought in to manage Diamond Dallas Page, and feud with Johnny B. Badd, who will be managed by Page's real-life wife Kimberly (Diamond Doll). WCW is also making a strong push to bring in Konnan in January, although he hasn't been around long enough to be established as a key player in ECW.

No shows this past weekend. The 11/18 show will sellout so as it turned out, the 10/28 incident had no negative effect on ticket sales. The show may be Terry Funk's last U.S. match for a long time.

ECW is looking at making Danbury, CT and possibly an arena in Queens as regular sites for house shows. The Danbury, CT show on Thanksgiving night looks like a sellout in an 850-seat night club.

They'll also debut on 11/25 in Salisbury Beach, MA at Champs Arena (about 45 minutes from Boston) with Tommy Dreamer vs. Raven, Too Cold Scorpio vs. 911, Public Enemy vs. Dudleys, Eliminators vs. Pit Bulls and Mikey Whipwreck vs. Sandman. John Kronus & Perry Saturn (Eliminators) are pretty much putting this show together. For ticket info you can call 508-462-1279.

NOVEMBER 27, 1995

Sabu (Terry Brunk) returned to the ECW Arena in an unannounced match on 11/18 beating Hack Myers in a move that has a number of political ramifications. Sabu was introduced earlier in the show as Paul Heyman came out and said he had a surprise for the fans and was going to turn out the lights and said there would be no fire and no fire extinguishers in this surprise. When the light came back on, Sabu was in the ring pointing to the ceiling and the crowd was chanting "Thank you" as Sabu and Heyman hugged in the ring.

According to Heyman, Sabu and Heyman reached a deal on 11/1 for Sabu to appear on the 11/18 show but Heyman wanted it kept as a surprise. The two agreed for Sabu to work only the one show, which at press time is all that had been officially agreed to although there is obviously a good chance Sabu will be back as a regular.

The results of this surprise were numerous. Sabu had been working with WCW, although to the best of our knowledge never had signed the contract offered him. WCW had been upset with Sabu for numerous reasons, such as him brawling out of the ring more than they wanted him to and going longer than scheduled in some television matches. In addition, The Sheik wasn't supposed to throw fire at the PPV show and it caught everyone at WCW by surprise. Sabu was unhappy at being a mid-card performer and those in WWF say he insisted on not having his weight announced because of the belief if he was categorized as a junior heavyweight, he couldn't work on top. WCW allows its wrestlers to work indie shows provided they don't work for WWF, SMW and ECW which are considered as enemy promotions. It was no secret within the company that the wrestlers and booking committee, while admitting to his guts and work ethic, thought he was a poor worker which is why they kept his matches short. Sabu working the ECW date, particularly since it was kept a secret from WCW management, put himself in a tenuous position. Sabu, who had left for a Japan tour at press time and wasn't able to be reached, had told another reporter before leaving that he called up Bischoff on 11/20, and Bischoff told him he was too busy to talk with him at the time. He said he then watched Nitro and heard Bischoff on commentary talk about a wrestler who is no longer with the company and to call the WCW Hotline to find out who, and he called the Mike Tenay message and that's how he found out he was fired. On the hotline, Tenay talked about the Sabu situation and speculated Sabu may be in trouble with the company but Sabu hadn't been told anything by that point. While it had been reported elsewhere Sabu had quit WCW, nobody in WCW was aware of the fact, nor was Sabu, although many were aware of tension between the two sides and thought a split was inevitable either way. He was still booked and advertised for both the Battle Royal on the 11/26 PPV show and also to face Eddy Guerrero on the 12/11 Nitro card from Charlotte, however he probably wasn't going to make either date either way since his three week tour of Japan began on 11/23.

Even stranger is the situation regarding Sabu and NWA promoter Dennis Coraluzzo. Coraluzzo had asked Sabu to

work on an afternoon show on 11/18 in Camden, NJ in early October, well before Sabu and Devon Storm tore the house down on 10/28. Sabu turned down the date in early October claiming a booking in San Bernardino, CA (there was an indie show in San Bernardino that night). According to Coraluzzo, on 11/13, Sabu called him up and said that either the show itself had been cancelled in California or that Sabu had cancelled the San Bernardino date because New Japan booked him for the week, but then cancelled the shows that week (presumably a Heisei Ishingun tour since New Japan cancelled all HI shows and New Japan never had any shows scheduled for that week). He told Coraluzzo he would fly himself in to work the Camden show and pay for his hotel room. The two agreed on Sabu to work for less than his usual price because most of the local publicity had been done without Sabu's name, but since Coraluzzo had gotten clearance from the WWF to use Hakushi on the show, he figured he could get the word around in five days of a Sabu vs. Hakushi match and it would draw some extra fans. Because WWF initially freaked out about a supposed WCW vs. WWF match-up and wanted it stopped, but then relented since it wants to keep good relations with all promoters, Coraluzzo had to work a DQ finish because WWF insisted Hakushi not do the job to a WCW wrestler and Sabu is the one Coraluzzo wanted to push. At the show they shot an angle to lead to future Sabu vs. Devon Storm matches on Coraluzzo shows in December when Storm interfered for the DQ and Sabu put both Storm and his manager through a table after the match. Coraluzzo said that Sabu had told him all along that he knew he would go back to ECW for one date because Tod Gordon would pay him a lot for it, but insisted he had no plans to do so at that point and never told Coraluzzo of his plans to work the evening show to the point where Coraluzzo found out after the show was over. Coraluzzo claimed he outright asked Sabu about it and Sabu denied it, and was really upset about it because he considered Sabu a friend more than a business associate, saying he didn't begrudge Sabu the opportunity to make money, but he felt bad because Sabu made an ass out of him and that Sabu has always told him they were good friends and he didn't think that kind of a move is something friends do to friends.

Heyman said that Sabu asked him after he had already agreed to do the ECW Arena show if he could work the Camden show, claiming Coraluzzo was the one who asked him to work the date. Heyman said he had no problem with it and actually liked the idea because it would explain to ECW fans who saw Sabu at the hotel why he was in town that weekend. He said that if any of his fans knew Sabu was going to work the ECW show, he'd have cancelled the booking and told Sabu not to tell anyone. However, word of Sabu's doing the ECW date started spreading on 11/11 and by mid-week it had become a strong rumor in wrestling and was reported on the Observer hotline that it would most likely happen and when Heyman talked about the surprise in the ring, there were chants for Sabu before he showed up. However, Coraluzzo was unaware of any of this, nor had Sabu told anyone while he was in Philadelphia. Sabu later told another publication that he hadn't made up his mind until 6 p.m. that night when ECW came through with the money, which he said was the single biggest one-night payoff he had ever received as a pro wrestler in the United States. He wouldn't say what the figure was, but when the figure of \$1,500 was brought up to him, he said it was well in excess of that.

Sabu later called Coraluzzo, wanting to keep his December dates, and according to Coraluzzo, told him that he didn't decide until the last minute to do the ECW show and did it because he was getting a \$3,000 one-night payoff which was

too much to turn down. Coraluzzo claimed Sabu told him that because he felt badly about what happened, he offered to pay Coraluzzo half his payoff. He said he hadn't told Coraluzzo about it because he didn't know for sure if they would come up with the money until he got to the hotel and they gave it to him after the Camden show was over. Heyman refused to comment on the size of the payoff saying he didn't want to give credibility to anything Coraluzzo said by responding to it. The figure on the surface seems hard to believe from a business standpoint. The argument can be made that business often goes out the window and anything is possible in a wrestling war. Sabu told Coraluzzo he asked Heyman for \$2,000 per shot for the future and Heyman had agreed to his price, which Heyman also refused comment on.

11/18 at the ECW Arena before a turnaway capacity crowd saw Bubba Ray Dudley, who got a huge pop, do the ring announcing and did the announcing fine until stuttering on the phrase, "Let's get ready to rumble." He then destroyed Tony Stetson & Don E. Allen in a handicap match. Paul E. Dangerously then came out and introduced Sabu. Konnan pinned Jason in 30 seconds when special ref Taz laid Jason out. Steve Richards pinned El Puerto Ricano. During the match, Richards brought out a new flunkie called The Blue Meanie (Brian Rollins) with blue hair and bossed him around and told him to moonsault El Puerto but he missed. Pit Bulls beat Eliminators. Rey Misterio Jr. beat Psicosis in a Mexican death match. Rules were that falls didn't count, although falls could be taken anywhere in the building, and the bout ended when one wrestler after a fall couldn't beat the count and get back in the ring. Misterio Jr. used a Frankensteiner off the top of the stage to the bottom of the stage onto Psicosis for a pin and Psicosis, who was ahead 4-2 in falls, couldn't get back in. Match wasn't as good as usual since Misterio Jr.'s ankle was badly swollen and he was limping badly, although he still did an incredible Asai moonsault. Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio kept the tag titles beating Public Enemy in a match where the man who took the fall would get a singles title match later in the show. Fans chanted "Please don't go" at Public Enemy. Grunge juiced heavily. Sandman ended up getting the pin and Public Enemy was obviously being phased down. Bill Alphonso beat Tod Gordon in a surprisingly entertaining match. Beulah McGillicuddy was the ref, but she was KO'd by Alphonso early and carried out. Alphonso juiced when Gordon gave him a chair shot. Taz came out and turned on Gordon and counted as Alphonso pinned him. Taz complained after that when the various wrestlers in ECW have gotten hurt, everyone sends cards and worries about them, but nobody cared when he got hurt. Sandman then came to the ring for his title match, but was jumped by Austin and destroyed. With Sandman unable to wrestle, Austin got the title match, and in a surprise, put Whiplash over clean. Austin looked rusty but the match was still decent. Sabu then pinned Myers in what virtually everyone said was the best match Myers has ever been in. Sabu did just about everything under the sun including leaping off a chair into a backflip over the top rope through a table on the floor. Finale saw Terry Funk & Tommy Dreamer over Raven & Cactus Jack in a bloody match with all four using all the gimmicks given by the fans. Jack wore both a "Dungeon of Doom" t-shirt and later a "Forgive me Uncle Eric" t-shirt with Bischoff's face on it. Of course they pulled the shirt over Jack's face and Dreamer began punching the Bischoff face on the shirt over and over. After the match Funk teased a retirement speech without actually saying it, saying he loved wrestling but his body couldn't take it anymore and basically was passing the torch as the king of hardcores to Dreamer.

11/17 in Jim Thorpe, PA before 475 was headlined by Whipwreck over Misterio Jr. in a ***1/2 title defense.

Shane Douglas was at the show backstage.

12/1 in Reading, PA had Mikey Whipwreck vs. Sandman for the title, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Austin for the TV title.

11/23 in Danbury, CT has Ultimate Jeopardy '95 with Public Enemy & Pit Bulls & Dreamer vs. Jack & Raven & Richards & Scorpio & Sandman. If Public Enemy lose, they must have a singles match against each other. If Pit Bulls lose, they must split up. If Dreamer loses, he gets his head shaved. If Cactus loses, he leaves ECW. If Raven loses, the man who wins gets Beulah for one month. If Richards loses, he must spend 5:00 alone with all five men on the other team. If Scorpio loses, he loses both the TV title and tag title, and if Sandman loses, Woman must leave ECW and he & Scorpio also forfeit the tag titles.

The Connecticut Post ran a front page story on 11/20 on ECW about it being a politically incorrect wrestling promotion. The story was built around the Danbury, CT show where Thomas Rodrigues brought them in as part of the grand opening of his Sub Zero night club. According to the story, they had nearly sold out the 500-seat venue days in advance. The article was huge, with both pros and cons. Among those interviewed for the piece was Greg Czerb of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission. Czerb said that ECW pushes the line and have given him more than one headache, but that since Pennsylvania deregulated wrestling, there's little he could do beyond lifting the license of the promoter but that would do no good because they would just use another license.

Woman was upset with the report that she was leaving for WCW here last week and was denying it backstage over the weekend.

Konnan did officially give notice that it would be his last show saying he was going to WCW. Heyman talked with him about the idea of going to WWF because he'd be able to work ECW house show dates if he went to WWF, but Konnan pretty well committed going to WCW in January. Konnan did promise to continue to work with Heyman in regard to booking AAA talent for future ECW dates although with the 12/9 Los Angeles show, Misterio Jr. and Psicosis won't be available for the next ECW Arena show.

12/9 at the ECW Arena will almost definitely be headlined by a triangular match for the title with Whipwreck, Sandman and Austin.

DECEMBER 4, 1995

The only house show of the weekend was 11/25 in Salisbury Beach, MA before an estimated 275 fans. There was no blood and no broken tables, but reports are the workrate was very good and the crowd enthusiasm was really high throughout. In an ECW death match, Raven beat Tommy Dreamer when Taz came in with a ref shirt and clocked Dreamer and put Raven on top continuing his heel turn. The Eliminators, Perry Saturn & John Kronus, who were involved in basically putting the show together, were cheered by the crowd since they were announced from Boston, but still insulted the crowd and played heel beating the Pit Bulls. Public Enemy had a hot (**3/4) match with the Bubba Ray & Dances with Dudley with all the

brawling with fans providing foreign objects and chanting "Please don't go" at them in reference to their considering going to WWF or WCW. As of press time, the two still hadn't made a final decision. The main event saw Mikey Whipwreck beat Sandman to keep the ECW title and they had a brawl at the end which wound down to Raven and Steve Richards beating on Dreamer until 911 made the save choke slamming both to end the show. Too Cold Scorpio was scheduled for a TV title match against 911 with Taz as ref, but the match never took place as Scorpio (now called 2 Gold Scorpio since he holds the TV and tag titles) wasn't there. Scorpio missed the show because he was called in early for his Germany tour.

The Thanksgiving night Ultimate Jeopardy show scheduled for Danbury, CT was canceled the day before. The match itself will be modified since Sandman won't be involved and most likely re-booked for the 12/9 ECW Arena show. The Danbury show was pretty much sold out in a 400-seat night club that was scheduled to open the day before. There is a lot of confusion regarding the cancellation. Officially the roof of the night club wasn't up to city ordinances and the club still hasn't gotten permission to open. Some believe the front page article in the Connecticut Post (which Paul Heyman loved) about the rowdy and violent atmosphere in ECW created a stir because of misinformation in the article and confusing ECW with the political hot potato of Extreme Fighting that was so big in the news. Due to an editing error, an editor at the paper mentioned Extreme Fighting being banned in New York, thinking Extreme Fighting and ECW were the same thing even though the author didn't have it in his original story. Promoter Tom Rodrigues blamed that confusion on city officials finding a reason for the club not to open. The Connecticut commission also made a call being concerned about the show believing it was Extreme Fighting and not pro wrestling which they have no regulatory power over, but contrary to word elsewhere, the commission had nothing to do with the show not taking place directly and probably nothing indirectly. From what we gather, even when the night club opens, because of all the problems, ECW won't be doing a show there. Heyman felt the club was too small for the crowd he thinks he can draw in the city and is planning on going back to the city in a different location over Christmas week, and the club owner told others he didn't want them any longer. The plan is also to open up at Lost Battalion Hall in Queens, New York for monthly shows starting in December.

Steve Austin is said to be seriously considering going to All Japan, which would allow him to work here between tours. WWF is still very interested in him as well.

12/1 in Reading, PA has Whipwreck vs. Raven for the ECW title, Pit Bulls vs. Eliminators with Taz and 911 as refs, Austin vs. Dreamer, Public Enemy vs. Dudleys and Richards vs. Hack Myers.

The Heavenly Bodies debuted doing a run-in attacking Public Enemy after the Enemy vs. Dudley Brothers match on 12/1 in Reading, PA at the group's only house show of the week before approximately 350 fans. This sets up a Public Enemy vs. Bodies match for 12/9 at the ECW Arena, plus a six-on-five Ultimate Jeopardy cage match for the same show. It's basically a done deal that Public Enemy is going to WCW and the last word we heard was that the final show for ECW would be billed as something like the Final House Party on 1/6. Anyway, Ultimate Jeopardy has Bodies vs. Public Enemy, Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer and Pit Bulls vs. Eliminators. Whichever team

wins two of the three matches will get the first advantage in War Games like rules in the cage match which will have Enemy & Bulls & Dreamer vs. Raven & Richards & Bodies & Eliminators. If Rocco Rock or Johnny Grunge get pinned, they must face each other in a singles match that night. If Pit Bulls lose, they split up and whomever scores the pin gets Francine for one week. If Dreamer loses, he gets his head shaved. If Raven loses, whomever scores the pin on him gets Beulah for one week. If Richards loses, he must spend 5:00 in a cage alone against all five members of the other team. If Eliminators lose, Jason gets his head shaved and they leave ECW. If Tom Prichard or Jimmy Del Rey lose, all the stipulations regarding Raven, Eliminators and Richards will go into effect.

ECW debuts in Queens, NY at Lost Battalion Hall on 12/29 with Sabu vs. Cactus Jack in a death match, Sandman vs. Steve Austin, Tommy Dreamer vs. Raven, Mikey Whipwreck vs. Too Cold Scorpio, Public Enemy vs. Heavenly Bodies and Pit Bulls vs. Eliminators.

They will be back on the Prime Sports Network on 1/1 and back on American Independent Network on Tuesday nights at 10 p.m. starting on 12/12.

After doing the run-in, Prichard also worked a singles match against Dreamer losing via DQ. He subbed for Steve Austin who was announced as having missed his plane in.

Bruce Prichard was backstage at this show.

Also on the card was Bruiser Mastino (Mantaur in WWF) but he was booked on the show by local promoter Damien Kane, so it's not a sign that he's headed to ECW. Chuck Williams, formerly Rockin Rebel in ECW, also worked the show. Apparently he was booked by Kane as well and showed up but Paul Heyman didn't want to use him because he fired him some time ago, but since he drove all the way and other wrestlers stood up for him, Heyman agreed to let him work as a Ninja under a hood. Bubba Ray Dudley got the best crowd reactions of anyone on the show.

Cactus Jack did another set of incredible interviews on this past week's television, showing up in a suit and tie with his hair slicked back doing a spoof on every kiss-the-fans-ass babyface interview from the 70s finishing by doing a ventriloquist bit with a stuffed animal waving bye-bye to all the hardcore fans. Sometimes I wonder if the people who watch his interviews figure out the message he's delivering with them. Anyway, this was different from the rest but no less brilliant.

DECEMBER 18, 1995

All kinds of turmoil this week.

Public Enemy's final show will be 1/5 at the ECW Arena with the plan of them having a house party after the show in the building. Steve Austin is also most likely leaving for WWF. There was a ton of controversy this week regarding Nancy Sullivan. Mark Madden reported on the WCW Hotline that Sullivan would be leaving ECW for WCW and go under the name Elizabeth and manage Randy Savage. WCW actually taped over that message and there was tremendous heat on Madden to the point his future with the company was questionable, with Sullivan denying she's leaving ECW and Kevin Sullivan wanting to replace Madden on the hotline with himself and Paul Orndorff. I can say for sure that there was a

plan in WCW in serious discussion as to exactly that although Sullivan has denied strongly she's going there. My feeling is that because she's come out so strong in denial, that it probably isn't going to happen, at least not right away, because if it were to happen any time soon, it'll wind up with some people having the kind of credibility Pat Patterson had coming out of the McMahon trial.

The television show this week opened with a great tribute to Terry Funk with them strongly hinting that he wouldn't be wrestling anymore in the United States without outright saying it and trying to get the idea that he was passing the hardcore torch to Tommy Dreamer to give Dreamer more credibility as a headliner.

The 12/9 show at the ECW Arena, billed as "The December to Dismember" was described by all concerned as a flat show and well below the usual standard although everyone worked hard. The talent level wasn't there without Cactus Jack, Sabu, Too Cold Scorpio, Rey Misterio Jr. and Psicosis. The future of using the Mexicans is questionable because WCW is making a play to get the working agreement with AAA since Konnan, who is the AAA international liaison, was promised a good spot in WCW. Sabu (New Japan) and Cactus (IWA) were in Japan for the show and Scorpio was in Austria but all return at the end of the month. Because of the fire marshall, the crowd was below usual (either 899 or 1,099 depending upon who you talk with) although there were people turned away so it was a sellout. Taz returned beating El Puerto Ricano in 3:26 and challenged anyone to come out and the fans chanted for 911, but he didn't come out. Bruiser Mastino (Mantaur) debuted at the Arena (he worked a spot show last weekend) losing to Hack Myers. In the triangular match, Sandman came out as ECW champion. First Steve Austin pinned Mikey Whipwreck in 12:34 and then Sandman pinned Austin (who had a short crewcut, almost bald, so everyone speculated he was getting ready for a new WWF role) in 7:11 even though Austin had his feet under the ropes. Sandman got the biggest pop of the show because nobody expected him to beat Austin. Even if Austin wasn't leaving, Paul Heyman's plan for this show was for Sandman to get the title out of triangular match, not Austin. The first Public Enemy vs. Heavenly Bodies match saw Enemy win in 8:46 in a very good match. For whatever reason, the Ultimate Jeopardy cage match with Public Enemy & Pit Bulls & Dreamer beating Eliminators & Bodies & Raven & Steve Richards fell flat even though there was a lot of juice and gimmicks used. Lots of fans left during the match. Dreamer ended up pinning Richards, who was left alone with all five faces for 5:00. It wound up with Sandman, the most popular guy in the company right now (they even booed Whipwreck when he squared off with him), making the save for Richards and getting a babyface pop by caning all the faces.

ECW moves to midnight Sunday on MSG cable starting 1/7.

For out-of-towners coming in for the Holiday Hell tour, they are setting aside tickets at 212-642-5943 as the Queens show will probably sellout fast.

12/28 in Glenolden, PA will have Sandman defend against Cactus, Sabu vs. Rocco Rock, Pit Bulls vs. Bodies, Dreamer & Whipwreck vs. Raven & Richards, Scorpio defending TV title against Johnny Grunge and Austin vs. Hack Myers.

It is expected that starting on 1/5, ECW Arena ticket prices will be raised from \$15 and \$25 to \$18 and \$30. There is some complaining about the high prices, but you have to realize that

it isn't as if these groups are making huge profits and gouging the fans. They are in a constant fight just for survival and for those so vociferously backing them, they need to understand the realities of the wrestling business in 1996, that to be presented at anything but a bare-bones level (and SMW tried and failed at that level), particularly running in small buildings with a small fan base, that ticket prices need to be high or the group won't last very long.

DECEMBER 26, 1995

The only match announced for the 1/5 show is Sandman vs. Konnan for the ECW title which will be Konnan's final ECW appearance before going to WCW. Paul Heyman and Konnan talked with Konnan agreeing to continue to send AAA talent to ECW with Rey Misterio Jr. appearing in a six-man tag on the same show.

Steve Austin did an unbelievable interview on the 12/19 show saying how he spent four years waiting for a world title shot, then got two in two weeks and lost them both, and admitted he came into ECW out of shape, that he didn't rehab his arm and said if he was smart he'd call up Eric Bischoff and tell him he deserved to win announcer of the year and kiss his ass to get his job back so he could sit around and get a big paycheck. He said he was disgusted with his career over the past four year.

The Bruise Brothers are expected to be headed in soon, while The Head Hunters have agreed to start on 1/26 and have 14 dates booked here following that.

Most expect the Christmas week show in Queens to draw the largest crowd in the history of the company. Paul Heyman is working hard on getting celebrities to attend.

FMW's Koji Nakagawa is booked on the 12/30 show in Reading, PA.

JANUARY 1, 1996

There has never been a small promotion in the recent history of wrestling that has garnered as much attention as ECW. Although the group has yet to sell 1,500 tickets to a show in its history, its influence on the business is unbelievable. Aside from its fans showing up on WWF PPV shows and almost taking over the show, its style and its performers are being copied throughout the world. Konnan's Baja California promotion is basically a copy of numerous styles, but largely based on ECW style and angles. Both WWF and WCW have taken both from its style and its angles. It has the most creative and innovative wrestling television show in the world, bar none. Its house shows probably set the standard for the United States in 1995 and may, with less talent, come close to hold its own with many of the larger world wide groups. It is the only promotion in the world in 1995 that was able to create so many characters that at least got over to a great degree to its core audience. In some ways I see parallels between ECW and UFC when it comes to the audience. The core audiences of both groups love them. However, for each group to grow, they may need to go away from the style the audience loves so much into something that would be more marketable. ECW can control that while UFC in some ways being a shoot, it is not something as easily controllable. While the enthusiasm of the ECW audience is a plus for television, it becomes a minus when you hear some of the chants like "Show your tits" in regard to it going to a new level of popularity. Paul Heyman

has to continually cater enough to the audience that they stay enthusiastic, but by going to the Extreme so to speak, he limits its future and limits the type of audience it can attract. It's impossible to try and play every side of the fence, as WWF seems to be trying these days, and be successful, but Heyman, who can control his audience better than most in the U.S., can negate the company's strengths in terms of money-making potential by trying to cater to a relatively small hardcore audience. The core UFC audience seems to really like the technical matches and as a fan, I enjoyed the way the show turned out. At the last live show, the live crowd appeared to enjoy that show (with the exception of those who came only to see Tank Abbott destroy some people) more than any of the other live UFC shows I've either been to or talked with people who have attended. Nevertheless, while presenting a technical sport is great ammo against politicians, there is a question as to whether it's what is going to consistently attract the type of people who swell the buy rates to 1.0. Just as with ECW, while getting on the house mic and saying motherf---er this and that definitely gets a pop out of those who attend the shows live, I wonder how well it plays on television. I guess in a sense we already know because it's on no major broadcast channels despite being the most innovative and talked about pro wrestling show in the world.

A correction from a couple of weeks back. Tickets for the ECW arena we had reported as being raised from \$15 and \$25 to \$18 and \$30 when in fact they were \$12 and \$25 and the \$12 seats are being raised to \$15. The Queens shows, which are scheduled to be monthly with a second date on 2/3, will have a \$35 top ticket price.

Steve Austin and Tom Prichard will finish with ECW this week, so neither will be on the 1/5 ECW Arena show. That ECW Arena show will be the final appearance of Public Enemy and Konnan with the show basically built around PE's last match.

Gino Moore, who is one of Dennis Coraluzzo's friends and compatriots was on a small wrestling radio show hosted by Eric Simms, who has done martial arts seminars with Dan Severn, in New Jersey issuing a ridiculous challenge saying that he wanted the NWA champion (Severn) against the ECW champion in a cage match to the finish with guards around the ring to prevent interference and for each company to put up \$250,000 and the losing promotion could no longer promote wrestling. Coraluzzo himself was even embarrassed calling it an "act of random stupidity."

Only matches known at press time for the 1/5 ECW Arena show are Sandman vs. Konnan and Rey Misterio Jr. & 911 vs. Eliminators. There is a great danger in exposing Misterio because in with guys the size of Eliminators and 911, he'll look like a small child. A generation ago, when Tiger Mask worked in New Japan and was super over, New Japan put him in a main event with Inoki & Fujinami where his opponents were Steve Wright & Don Muraco & Masked Superstar, the latter two of whom were two of the larger and most powerful looking guys in the business at the time and seeing Tiger Mask fighting them just exposed Tiger Mask's lack of size and New Japan never did anything like that again.

The situation with the Bruise Brothers is that Paul Heyman has talked with them about coming in for a short-term deal. Ron Harris is looking at going into police work full-time because he's got a family and police work has a better benefits package than pro wrestling and is taking his exam at the end of January.

Head Hunters are starting on the late January ECW Arena show and Shane Douglas is virtually a lock to be returning, although Heyman may stall it out several months so that he can do enough interviews on television to make fans forget his WWF stint before he actually appears in an important match.

JANUARY 8, 1996

The New York City debut at Lost Battalion Hall in the Rego Park section of Queens on 12/29 drew a reported sellout 1,140 fans which was a legit turnaway crowd. With tickets priced at \$35 and \$20, the gate was said to be close to \$30,000 would be by far the all-time record for the company. ECW will return to the same building on 2/3 and is already talking about moving to a larger building, the Roseland Concert Hall in Manhattan in March. The main negative from what we heard were the building had no elevated seating so it was difficult to see, and even worse when they brawled outside the ring. The crowd was really heated overall and the show had a lot of blood. Paul Heyman opened the show cussing out WWF, WCW and Steve Austin, who was scheduled in the main event title match against Sandman and missed the show. Heyman said that the tirade was part work and part shoot. He wasn't at all mad at Austin, who he knew was very ill with a strep throat and couldn't work the date. But he said the tirade against WWF was both to heat the crowd up, and also as a receipt for the WWF telling him that Tom Prichard couldn't work the show because he was booked on the WWF tour of California before Heyman booked the Heavenly Bodies for the weekend in early December. As it turned out, Prichard didn't even work the WWF California tour and had never been announced in California for those shows. Heyman was aware of the Heavenly Bodies being unavailable at least in enough time to book The Gangstas to take their place against Public Enemy on the show. They ended up with a Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer match in which the winner (Raven) would get the title shot at Sandman (which Sandman won). In addition, Mikey Whipwreck won both the TV title and the tag team title from Too Cold Scorpio in a singles match with both belts at stake. Cactus Jack interfered in the finish and Whipwreck picked Jack to be his new partner. Jack most likely will start with WWF on its TV leading up to Wrestlemania (after the February PPV show) but until that time they are doing an angle where Jack tries to bring Whipwreck into Raven's group but Raven doesn't want him, Whipwreck doesn't want to join, and Jack is caught in the middle by both. Gangstas beat Public Enemy in their match and after the match, with the crowd chanting "Please don't go" at Public Enemy, Johnny Grunge flicked his fingers as to indicate it's all about making money and the crowd turned on him big-time with chants like "You sold out," "Get the F*** out" and the like. So much for understanding that a guy like Ted Petty, who is 43, has been in this business forever without ever having a chance to make serious money and begrudging him for his one last chance after the guy cut his head off and did dangerous stunt work for two years to get the chance. The main event was Sabu vs. Cactus Jack. Ref Pee Wee Moore from Japan was in with Sabu since New Japan is off right now, he told the fans that Cactus Jack wanted an NCAA rules match with points for takedowns. 911 came out and chokeslammed Moore and reffed the match, but he was slow in getting down for the near falls and it hurt the match. Fans were upset since it was advertised as a death match but ended with the first pinfall, although the bout itself was really wild. Missy Hiatt also debuted on this show doing a gimmick where she was being really nice to Steve Richards supposedly because she wants to date Raven.

The 12/28 show in Glenolden, PA drew an overflow crowd of 400. The undercard was said to be disappointing but the main event with Sandman beating Cactus Jack was a great brawl.

The 12/30 show in Reading, PA drew a crowd estimated at 250. Sabu worked the opener and then drove two hours to Yardville, NJ to work for Dennis Coraluzzo in the main event that same night. Bubba Ray Dudley juiced hardway from a vicious chair shot to the head in a match with Bad Crew. Public Enemy beat Gangstas this time.

Gangstas will face Public Enemy in their farewell show on 1/5 at the ECW Arena. Also Whipwreck defends the TV title against Scorpio along with the previously announced Sandman vs. Konnan and 911 & Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Eliminators matches.

Koji Nakagawa from FMW was in for the weekend putting over Taz, Whipwreck and El Puerto Rican.

Heyman is talking about making a deal with MSG cable to get the Queens show to run as a two-hour special sometime in February.

Among those Heyman is talking with or about bringing in are Ultimo Dragon, Chris Jericho, Rob Van Dam (to work with Sabu) and Juventud Guerrera (to work with Misterio Jr.). Shane Douglas will be back although WCW has expressed interest in him believe it or not which just expresses the point made when talking about the WWF skit on Monday night.

There is some dissension among the wrestlers because they are mad that Sabu gets to work for Dennis Coraluzzo while the rest of them are told they can't because the promotions are at odds.

Cactus Jack passed out ginger bread cookies to the fans. His gimmick since he's supposed to be King of the Hardcores, which he hates, is to do things on television that those fans perceive he'd never do. He shaved his beard and mustache off and was almost unrecognizable on his interviews on this past week's television.

There were several complaints at the Glenolden show about Austin and the Bodies no-showing and those who asked for refunds were told that since ECW provided suitable replacements (J.T. Smith and Eliminators) that they wouldn't be given refunds.

JANUARY 15, 1996

Public Enemy, the first act truly created and gotten over entirely by ECW and its fans to the point the big companies were heavily interested, had their final match in their home base billed as "House Party '96" at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia on 1/5.

Before another sellout crowd estimated at 1,150, the PE defeated The Gangstas in their typical brawling bloody lots of objects supplied by fans style match, before leaving to start with WCW (which was scheduled for 1/8 but with the snow storm in the Northeast, Ted Petty, who lives in New Jersey, was unable to make it in for the scheduled Nitro debut).

In what was described as a great sendoff, similar but different to the August situation with Eddie Guerrero and Dean Malenko, Public Enemy invited several wrestlers, among them most of the regular babyfaces along with heels like Too Cold Scorpio, Sandman and the likes of Konnan and Bubba Ray Dudley into the ring along with both Paul Heyman and Tod Gordon to do the cabbage patch with them before inviting the fans in the ring as well. The match itself was said to have been typical although not having the level of heat of the matches earlier in the show, perhaps because the crowd was burned out from a lot of hot matches and angles earlier and also because of the mixed reaction of the crowd that enjoyed seeing them but also many that were mad they were leaving.

On the show Heyman put together an angle to distract fans from dwelling on the departure of PE and the impending departure of Cactus Jack where Beulah McGillicuddy announced she was pregnant and said that the father was Tommy Dreamer. This certainly takes something to the extreme being that Dreamer piledrove her for about the 35th time most recently at the New York show just one week earlier. The angle started with Steve Richards saying he wanted to be called Studley Steve because he was making out with Missy Hiatt (in yet another angle from New York) and then came out to Beulah, who backed off. Richards started saying how she was making him look stupid in public but she still backed off as said she was pregnant, which stunned everyone. At this point Raven hit the ring and went after Richards, until Beulah stopped him by telling him that Richards wasn't the father. Raven then started calling her a bitch and worse saying she should have remembered to take her pills and they're a different color each day to remind you. She said that Dreamer was the father and when Raven was about to attack her, Dreamer came in and laid Raven out with a stop sign given to him by a fan while Beulah hit Richards with a frying pan.

The only title change on the show saw Too Cold Scorpio regain the TV title beating Mikey Whipwreck due to outside interference from Raven, who DDT'd Whipwreck leading to the win.

ECW debuted Rob Van Dam and brought back Shane Douglas and Mr. Hughes on the show. Van Dam, who will probably be a heel, beat Axl Rotten. Douglas and Hughes were back together and Douglas said he'd teach Bubba Ray Dudley to speak English. Also expected in starting 1/26 are The Head Hunters, while Chris Jericho and Juventud Guerrera are scheduled to start in February.

The official attendance for the Queens show was 1,283 in the building which was more than capacity, 1,183 paid and \$27,410--all three numbers are almost assuredly all-time records for the promotion.

The attendance for 12/28 in Glenolden, PA was a sellout 574 (558 paid) and in Reading, PA on 12/30 was 398 (381 paid).

Most accounts were that the 1/5 ECW Arena show was a very strong show. The opener, which was a risk putting Rey Misterio Jr. in against the Eliminators and putting 911 in a match (as Misterio's partner) was apparently a big success with a **** opener. Misterio Jr. did a moonsault over the post to the floor on both Eliminators, and ended up winning by doing a Frankensteiner off 911's shoulders onto Perry Saturn, who was on John Kronus' shoulders. After the match, The Eliminators did their "high-low" (the old Midnight Express double gooze) on 911 and then beat on Misterio Jr. Taz ran in and choked out

911. At this point the Pit Bulls ran in to attack the Eliminators and they ended up doing the high-low on Francine, who was left for dead. They'll almost surely do a six person with Pit Bulls & Francine vs. Eliminators & Jason for 1/27 when they return.

Rob Van Dam, who will probably be a heel here, debuted beating Axl Rotten.

In the match where Too Cold Scorpio won the TV title from Mikey Whipwreck, Whipwreck was booed at the beginning. At one point he did a dive way into the stands. Before the Bubba Ray Dudley vs. Jimmy Del Rey match, Damien Kane came out as Del Rey's manager and gave Mr. Hughes to Del Rey as his bodyguard. Shane Douglas returned to a surprisingly great reaction ("Dean is Dead" chants) and said he'd teach Dudley to speak perfect English.

Sandman vs. Konnan for the ECW title was said to be a very good and extremely brutal match. Konnan juiced heavy and was beat to death with the cane. Misterio Jr. ran out and gave Konnan a cane and he made a comeback. Finish saw both men bloody and exhausted and collapsed on the mat. Konnan couldn't beat the ten count while Woman helped Sandman to his feet. The crowd razed Konnan to death since he was leaving for WCW and they don't like him much to begin with and they love Sandman, so Konnan worked as a heel. Among the chants at him were U.S. chump, One Man Gang and singing that he's going to perform sexual acts on Eric Bischoff. At the end, Konnan gave a speech where he said he's been all over the world and there's one great champion and it's Sandman and said that he'll always have ECW in his heart, said that "you sick sons of bitches" are why ECW's No. 1 and that it isn't good bye, it's just till next time. Sabu pinned Stevie Richards in a **** match as well.

Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis will take place on 2/3 at the next Queens show.

Paul Heyman said that it is ECW company policy (in reference to a letter in last week's Observer regarding the Salisbury, MA show and also a note in the ECW section last week spurred by the letter this week) to announce if anyone isn't there and to offer refunds through intermission. He said they made an announcement regarding Scorpio in Salisbury, MA and that one person asked for a refund and was given it, and that they made announcements in Glenolden, PA about Steve Austin and the Heavenly Bodies and that nobody at that show asked for refunds.

JANUARY 23, 1996

No house shows over the past weekend.

Upcoming line-ups are 1/26 in Jim Thorpe, PA with Sandman defending the ECW title against Mr. Hughes, Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck defending the tag titles against Dances With Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley, Sabu vs. Jimmy Del Rey, Shane Douglas vs. Stevie Richards, Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Too Cold Scorpio & Eliminators, Taz vs. Hack Myers plus debut of Head Hunters.

1/27 at ECW Arena has Sandman defending the ECW title against Raven, Jack & Whipwreck defending against Dreamer and a mystery partner, Scorpio defends TV title against Del Rey, Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam, Pit Bulls vs. Gangstas no DQ,

Hughes vs. Myers plus Head Hunters, Taz, Bubba Ray, Eliminators and Douglas.

2/3 in Queens, NY will be Sandman & Scorpio vs. Gangstas, Rey Misterio Jr. vs. Psicosis, Raven & Richards vs. Dreamer & mystery partner and the debut of Chris Jericho.

They also have a show on 2/2 in Reading, PA.

Seriously, if you're planning on attending the 1/27 or 2/3 show, order reserved seats in advance now. You'll be glad you did in the long run. These shows will almost surely overflow and will have brawling all over the place and there are many disadvantages (long lines, not being able to see, possibly being turned away at the door) of buying G.A. tickets when you arrive at the building.

There may be attempts in New York to work the fans into negative chants toward Philadelphia in a way to build up a New York vs. Philadelphia feud, similar to what they attempted earlier in the year of Philadelphia vs. Florida.

Heyman was threatening to sue WCW over a hotline message where Terry Taylor said the ECW champion was a drug addict.

JANUARY 29, 1996

2/2 in Reading, PA has Sabu vs. Cactus Jack, Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas vs. Raven & Stevie Richards, Pit Bulls vs. Head Hunters, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Mikey Whipwreck for the TV title, Chris Jericho vs. Rob Van Dam plus Sandman defending the title and Gangstas, Mr. Hughes, Taz, 911 and Eliminators.

Paul Heyman promised Sabu that he'd headline an ECW PPV show before 6/12. There is no definite date as of yet for an ECW PPV show.

The entire Eliminators vs. 911 & Rey Misterio Jr. match and skit aired on television on 1/16. I was really impressed at how well the Eliminators worked with Misterio Jr., who is literally half their size. They also did a devastating "Total elimination" (the High-low) on 911, Misterio Jr. and Francine.

Douglas will also be Dreamer's mystery tag partner on the 1/27 Philadelphia show.

The 2/3 New York show should be sold out before you read this.

FEBRUARY 12, 1996

The 2/3 show in Queens, NY drew another sellout of about 1,200 fans and \$27,000 (the number was down slightly from the first show because of complaints from people who couldn't see but they still turned away several hundred).

"A Current Affair" was at the show doing a piece for sweeps.

The Eliminators won the ECW tag titles beating Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck when both Jack and Raven turned on Whipwreck.

911 is history. He was either fired or quit, depending upon who one talks with, but the basic problem is he didn't want to put Taz or Sabu over.

Woman appeared at the Queens show basically doing the same angle she did in Philadelphia with a different twist, again trying to get Sandman to go to WCW and also Scorpio, and again Scorpio turned her down and carried her to the back of the building and threw her out. A correction from last week, in the segment in Philadelphia, they never used the term whore on Woman, but kept using the term bitch.

Juventud Guerrera made a surprise debut. Apparently Psicosis was stopped at the border because his visa had expired, so Rey Misterio Jr. went back and brought Guerrera with him to New York and the two didn't arrive until late. Misterio Jr. won the match with the highlight being him doing a rope climbing Frankensteiner off the top rope to the floor. Chris Jericho debuted beating Rob Van Dam in what was said to be another hot match.

Paul Heyman wants to book Misterio Jr. vs. Guerrera for 2/17 in Philadelphia and 3/8 in New York and 3/9 in Philadelphia, however there is a lot of pressure from WCW for Konnan, who is the intermediary, to have them work for WCW instead of ECW.

In case that's it for them, they ran an angle where Misterio Jr. was carried out after Taz hit a devastating suplex on him. Woman came out and told the fans you can see the kind of action you're seeing tonight every Monday night live on television and said she wasn't leaving. They did the business with Sandman and Scorpio carrying her off. Stevie Richards and Blue Meanie then confronted Sandman and said Raven ordered them to beat him up. Sandman then clocked Meanie with the cane and when he went after Richards, Richards said he quit Raven's nest. Raven then came out and told Richards he was sick of him and threatened him telling him he screwed up by not making sure Beulah took her pill every day. Richards then announced a sexual harassment lawsuit against Missy Hyatt which was basically a spoof of Hyatt's deal with WCW, claiming Hyatt molested him on television. It wound up with Hyatt and Sandman getting together based on having Raven and Richards as common enemies. Hyatt's character will be called "Mommy."

Because of problems with the commission in New York, and there were many, Heyman decided against using blood until the last match on the show (Sandman & Scorpio over Gangstas with Sandman and New Jack bleeding).

The 2/2 show in Reading, PA drew a sellout 550 with Sabu over Cactus Jack on top.

Bam Bam Bigelow debuted in New York. Taz was calling for 911, but Tod Gordon came out and said that 911 was afraid of him, thus burying 911. Taz then went after Gordon when Bigelow made the save. It's not a done deal that Bigelow will work here as he's still under contract with WWF but they are going to at least make an attempt at getting him to work with Taz.

A correction, on the back of Cactus Jack's t-shirt at the last Philly show, it didn't read Future WWF Superstar as we had reported, but "Join the New Generation."

FEBRUARY 19, 1996

The piece on "A Current Affair" is set for a 2/23 air date.

ECW is opening up a wrestling school, perhaps as early as March called the "House of Hardcore" with Taz and Perry Saturn as instructors. Saturn & John Kronus have moved to the New York area.

2/17 at ECW Arena besides already announced Raven vs. Sandman for the ECW title, Cactus Jack vs. Shane Douglas, Dog collar with Eliminators & Stevie Richards vs. Pit Bulls & Francine, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Sabu for the ECW TV title, Gangstas vs. Head Hunters and J.T. Smith vs. Axl Rotten.

MARCH 4, 1996

The "A Current Affair" piece ran on 2/23. The show, which is on its final legs and no longer has strong time slots in most of the major markets, did what was basically an easy sweeps piece. They showed a lot of violence, tsked at it, and had a morality crusader mouth off against it, and that was the gist of the piece. It wasn't negative for ECW because it gave them national exposure but it was basically a negative piece. Bob Peters of Morality in the Media in America was the right-wing heel of the piece. The producers did absolutely no research whatsoever and talked like ECW was making a run at the big boys, with WCW and WWF both mentioned, but then gave no evidence to back that up. After a comment by Joey Styles where he talked about ECW having the wildest brawling but also some of the best scientific action, they immediately went to a clip of a flying pan shot to basically make fun of his comment about scientific wrestling. Also interviewed on the piece were Missy Hiatt and Shane Douglas.

They ran two spot shows in small buildings this weekend drawing full houses on 2/23 in Glenolden, PA (493) and 2/24 in Plymouth Meeting, PA (804).

On the television that aired on 2/20, they aired the Brian Pillman angle in its entirety and it's something that should be seen. Pillman does about the most believable psycho bit of anyone in years. During the angle as Pillman was out of control, Shane Douglas over the house mic in a corny way said, "He's shooting." Overall the bit was excellent although Pillman calling Paul Heyman "booker man" and Douglas with his remark made the angle a little too forced for what they were trying to accomplish. They also did a good angle at the end of the show involving Raven and Tommy Dreamer. Dreamer came out with his arm in a sling which they blamed on Raven. Raven then said that the shoulder injury (which is legit and Dreamer should be out for several weeks) was nothing and talked about in different foreign countries how if you steal, they cut off your hands, if they run away from the law, they cut off your feet, etc. and then said that he made Raven's girlfriend pregnant. At that point the Bruise Brothers, who appeared in the ring to back Dreamer up, suddenly turned on him and crotched him on the ringpost, apparently as his punishment for making Raven's girlfriend pregnant.

Pillman was back in Glenolden doing a second angle during the Raven vs. Douglas match for the ECW title. Pillman was at ringside shooting photos and kept flashing in Douglas' eyes and they had a pull-apart non-brawl.

It appears Mr. Hughes is history. On 2/24 in Plymouth Meeting, PA, he and Too Cold Scorpio were having problems from the start, and actually before the start, and had a non-cooperation match with Hughes simply walking away to be counted out after three minutes of non-selling. Scorpio then as an impromptu deal beat up Damien Kane, who was Hughes' manager, and clocked him in the eye. Backstage Scorpio and Hughes were screaming at each other and Scorpio challenged Hughes to a fight and Hughes backed down.

They did an angle where Taz choked out Bam Bam Bigelow to set up a series of future matches. Bigelow had bounced around several people during the show. After pinning Cactus Jack, who was wearing his ManKind gimmick in WWF, in a nothing match, Stevie Richards & Blue Meanie, also billed as the New Fabulous Ones, along with Jack all jumped Bigelow. Bigelow made his own comeback on all of them until Taz came from behind and suplexed Bigelow and choked him down. Hack Myers and El Puerto Ricano (who is moving to Michigan to live with and train with Sabu as his protege) tried to make the save but were held out by Richards, Jack and Meanie.

Douglas and Sandman formed a bond. After Raven beat Douglas in Glenolden, PA due to interference from Richards and Meanie, Sandman made the save. The two agreed that since they had common enemies they would form a bond and whomever got the ECW title first would give the other the first title shot. Douglas also made the same bond with Dreamer a few weeks ago.

Complete March schedule is 3/8 in Queens (Raven vs. Sandman, Scorpio vs. Sabu, Mysterio Jr. vs. Juventud Guerrera 2/3 falls, Eliminators vs. Pit Bulls, Alfonso vs. Gordon), 3/9 at the ECW Arena (Raven vs. Douglas, Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers, Mysterio Jr. vs. Guerrera 2/3 falls, Taz vs. Whipwreck), 3/15 in Jim Thorpe, PA (Raven vs. Douglas, Scorpio vs. Sabu, Eliminators vs. Pit Bulls, Taz vs. Whipwreck, Sandman vs. Rotten, Bruise Brothers vs. Dudley's), 3/16 in Glenolden, PA (Sandman & Douglas vs. Raven & Richards, Bigelow & Gordon vs. Alfonso & Taz, Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers, Eliminators vs. Rotten & Myers), DE, 3/29 in Reading, PA and 3/30 at the ECW Arena. They are talking about adding a balcony to the ECW Arena to expand capacity past the 1,500 mark rather than going into a new building. The problem with going into a new building is few buildings will allow them to do the crazy stuff they can get away with in that building.

There was no blood on either show and fans were said to be disappointed with that aspect but overall both were said to have been very good for "B" type shows.

Main event the second night saw Sabu beat Cactus.

Sabu and Scorpio had a 20:00 draw on 2/23 as a rematch from their match the week before.

At both shows, at the end of the opening match, Sandman did a run-in and hit everyone in sight with the cane which seems to be the new way to get a big pop early in the show and build Sandman into the top kick-ass babyface.

ECW starts on Ch. 62 in Columbus, OH with Thursday 9 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. airings tentatively starting on 2/29.

Tracy Smothers has been talked with about coming in.

MARCH 11, 1996

Big Titan (Rick Bogner from Calgary) will be making his debut this weekend including wrestling Sabu on the 3/9 show in Philadelphia. Among the matches added to the shows this weekend are Taz vs. Mikey Whipwreck and Eliminators vs. Pit Bulls for the tag titles on 3/8 in Queens, and Cactus Jack vs. Whipwreck, Sabu vs. Titan, Taz vs. Chris Jericho and Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers on 3/9 in Philadelphia.

Cactus Jack and Shane Douglas' match from the last ECW Arena show aired on TV this week and was very compelling. The deal was that Jack had his hands cuffed behind his back by Douglas and Douglas destroyed him with chair shots and tried to make Jack say he quit. Jack called for Whipwreck to help him, but when Whipwreck came in, he clocked Jack with a chair causing him to get pinned. Probably the best Douglas match in a long time.

Louie Spicoli (Rad Radford) debuts on 3/29 so I guess that's a sign he's one of the guys recently let go by WWF.

There was a lot of controversy over this past week regarding this group's television situation with Sports Channel in Philadelphia. In a nutshell, everything is as it was, but the story itself gets a lot more complicated. The major player in this is Eugene Moore, an associate of local rival promoter Dennis Coraluzzo. A few months back, Moore went nuts on a radio show and issued a champion vs. champion challenge with each group sending its champion in a cage match with security around the ring to prevent interference as a shoot for \$250,000 with the losing group never allowed to promote wrestling again. Since the NWA champ is Dan Severn (Sandman was ECW champ at the time of the radio show), it was the equivalent of a skinny schoolyard punk getting the baddest dude in school and having him challenge all the other kids (actually, quite similar to ECW's Taz/Bill Alfonso angle), which considering pro wrestling is a work and the personnel involved is the ultimate grandstand b.s. Later, ECW got slapped around verbally after the fire incident last year and a report to a government department in Pennsylvania from a fan saying the incident was dangerous was allegedly signed by Eugene Moore. Moore wasn't at the show that night, but at Coraluzzo's show the same night. Moore claims he never signed it. ECW officials also claim that at one of their shows at the Arena he was caught letting air out of people's tires which he had an explanation for. Anyway, one of the reports to the governmental agencies led to them cutting off attendance at two of the recent Arena shows to 1,000-1,100 or a hundred or so plus less than usual. I don't want to let anyone get the idea this is a one-way street, as ECW did a very famous double-cross on Coraluzzo in the NWA tournament, and most recently, Sabu no-showed two of Coraluzzo's dates (there is no direct corroboration ECW pressured him into doing so although friends of his have claimed that and it did come almost immediately after some ECW wrestlers had called Coraluzzo wanting to be booked on his shows since ECW doesn't run a full schedule and Sabu was allowed to work for both), one of which he was in the main event of and who even knows how many little things each has tried on the other to piss the other off since this is a promotional war. However, with ECW and its loyal fans, everything negative regarding ECW immediately turns into a babyface/heel issue. ECW then made some building changes to get a variance to allow them to put the regular number in, and this past Tuesday, on the television show, Joey Styles mentioned the company had gotten a proper variance and thanked on the air Eugene Moore of New Jersey for making it all possible and saying they were dedicating the weekend tour,

called the Big Ass Bash, to him. Moore is about 300 pounds. In the context of everything, the remark was pretty innocuous, particularly when you compare it with other promotional wars of late. On Wednesday, Moore called up Bob Ayars at Sports Channel Philadelphia and threatened to sue the station and ECW over the remark. According to Moore, Ayars (who claimed to have not seen the show or known about the remark) said he was fed up and said the show would be pulled immediately. Moore and Coraluzzo began calling everyone they knew including playing for some an answering machine message that Moore had left claiming he was on the phone with Ayars and Ayars claimed the show was off the air as of that moment. Some are claiming the tape was a fraud. However, the voice on the tape and Ayars' voice did sound the same and supposedly a voice analysis of the tape is supposed to be done whatever that actually means. Using the tape is a fraud theory, it is then taken one step farther to say the entire story was made up by Coraluzzo and Moore and that ECW was never canceled. Ayars himself later said the show was never canceled and it was wishful thinking (on the part of Moore and Coraluzzo). However, others who spoke with Ayars independent of NWA told us they had talked with him earlier and he said that he was waiting to review the tape to see what was actually said (which was pretty innocuous) and that he was concerned about some aspects of the show and that Prime was taking over aspects of programming on the station as of 4/1 and all shows would be evaluated once again at that point. Nobody from ECW was contacted by Ayars as of that night, although all this broke at the end of the business day on Tuesday. Coraluzzo and Moore got the word out that evening on the Internet and several hotlines, including on the Observer hotline, of the show being off the air (the original hotline report also included that Tod Gordon was claiming it wasn't true). Paul Heyman that night said he knew nothing of it, but was unconcerned, saying he was close to a deal with an over-the-air station in Philadelphia anyway, and if there was a problem and he assumed there was but didn't know, Steve Karel (who handles television) would take care of it the next day. Heyman said later that the problem had been taken care of by 9:05 a.m. the next morning. It wound up with Moore and Heyman that day both threatening to sue the respective companies the other is affiliated with for slander and falsifying complaints respectively. Heyman said several days later as far as he was concerned, he had more important things to do than worry about something that wasn't a story and that he didn't know and didn't care about whether the tape was legit.

MARCH 18, 1996

Is ECW the next step in the evolution of American wrestling? Or is it simply a violent aberration with a cult following?

In recent years, there has never been a promotion anywhere in the world that has drawn so much attention while still not proving itself to any serious degree at the box office. The reasons for the attention worldwide is in many ways deserved. ECW has had a tremendous effect on pro wrestling, not only in the United States but also in Mexico. It's become a cult deal that has spread to Japan (wrestlers in smaller promotions in Japan and in AAA in Mexico routinely wear ECW t-shirts during wild street fight and barbed wire type matches), something other equally brutal and even more bloody promotions from the past such as Joe Blanchard's San Antonio office with national television exposure could never even approach. It has exposed numerous new stars and acts that the so-called big boys would never consider and in some cases literally laugh at because of their obvious weaknesses (usually in regard to either size or in some cases wrestling ability) and exposed their strengths and

made those same offices come after the guys. It has produced, on a consistent basis, probably the best quality house shows in America. And since the start of the new year, the organization has even proven it could beat the rap of not being able to draw anywhere but in one building as it has sold out every show, albeit most in very small halls, since the new year began.

This past weekend, ECW presented its biggest back-to-back shows in history, entitled the "Big Ass Extreme Bash," in the midst of poor weather selling out to the tune of an estimated 1,200 at both Lost Battalion Hall in Queens, NY on 3/8, and following it up in its home ECW Arena in South Philadelphia the next night.

The shows ended with more questions coming up than questions being answered about what exactly is the future of what has to be considered right now the No. 3 wrestling promotion in the U.S.

The show in Queens was a study of everything that can go wrong with the concept of presenting a hard edged ultra-violent concept on television that encourages fan participation. The next night, the show was an example of nearly everything positive about the same concept. The wrestlers were the same. The angles were similar. The quality of the matches, while overall better in Philadelphia, weren't all that different. The biggest difference was the crowd.

In Philadelphia, ECW has become an every three week cult deal. The 1,200 or so fans who pack every square centimeter of the building are for the most part, the same fans that have been there for the last few years. In the annals of pro wrestling, that's nothing unusual. In the territorial heyday, every city that ran regularly and had its home arena, whether it be the Atlanta City Auditorium, the Portland Sports Arena, the Kiel in St. Louis, Madison Square Garden, The Cow Palace in San Francisco, the Ampitheatre in Chicago, Mid South Coliseum in Memphis or even the Amarillo Sports Arena would, after repetition, develop fans who were into the product on more than a superficial level. They had their local heroes and homesteaders, and a revolving cast of heels brought in. Some cities liked small guys. Some liked big guys. Some liked blood. Some liked credibility. In most cases, it wasn't so much the nature of the fans themselves, but of what the local promoter himself liked and after a few years, educated the area fans to like as well.

Outside of Philadelphia, ECW is a late night television show on a remote cable station in a few markets. It's wild. It's compelling. And it's creative as hell. When it gets right down to it, the question shouldn't be who it attracts and how they react as much as can it attract enough to make it. A promotion that draws 20,000 fans to house show that sit on their hands and make no noise or "react wrong" like cheering heels or even not showing respect for wrestling is still incredibly successful. One that draws 500 on their good nights that react on cue, cheer faces, boo heels, or show appreciation for what they see in other manners is still not successful.

Unfortunately, the fans in New York made the former part of the statement more important than the latter.

And that's nothing new. Anyone who remembers when ECW toured Florida the first time, and Chris Benoit and Too Cold Scorpio had a ****+ match before a bunch of disinterested fans in Fort Lauderdale, FL that were there only for the violence, knows that the New York reaction is nothing new for this

promotion. The building was packed by an audience that largely had no respect for the wrestlers but wanted to see guys they had no respect for bust each other up (which is the nice way of putting it) and scantily clad women get their tops ripped off for their highly paid entertainment dollar as the packed little building with \$35 ringside and horrible site lines drew something in the range of a \$27,000 house. The crowd came to see stiff chair shots and lots of blood, and not much else. They got a lot of the former and none of the latter. They didn't like most of the faces (exceptions being Sandman, The Gangstas and Buh Buh Ray Dudley) or most of the heels, or each other for that matter, as some of the most pointed comments and yells from the fans were at other fans. The reaction while Rey Mysterio Jr. and Juventud Guerrera were putting on one of the best technical matches in the history of the city--and maybe the entire country--was that they wanted the midgets out of there because they figured out they weren't going to bleed. It wasn't everyone in the building that reacted that way, but out of the 1,200, I don't think there were even 200 who actually got into the match, although that minority did give it the respect it deserved. As Mick Foley, a man who has given far more to pro wrestling than it will ever give back to him, had his next to last match ever as Cactus Jack in an arena not too far from where he grew up, he was pelted with loud chants of "You Sold out." Less than 90 seconds into a Too Cold Scorpio vs. Sabu match and the two were trying to exchange holds to build a match (what a novel approach) since they were going 20:00, the boring chants started. As the two went to the finish, a large percentage of the crowd, perhaps more than half, paid them no attention since some strippers from next door were handing out photos. As the Pit Bulls and Eliminators went to their finish, in a match which combined lots of missed spots with some incredible and even death defying spots (like Perry Saturn doing a moonsault off the top rope over the post to the floor), a loud chant of "Show your tits, Francine" started, the timing of which couldn't have been more ironic since she'd been out there for 13:00 and was doing nothing at the time to encourage the chants other than being barely encased in a leather outfit. Actually that was the main chant of the night, not only at every stripper type brought out to work ringside, but also at any even borderline attractive women in the audience who got up out of her chair and walked around to get a coke. The crowd itself was probably 98% male, almost all ages 20 to 35. There were less kids than at a UFC show, and the UFC bans kids from attending live. They called Chris Jericho a "Hunter Hearst Helmsley" wannabe, despite the respective talent of the two. They pelted the ring with so much garbage that at one point the state athletic commission ordered the show shut down and Paul Heyman had to use his best crowd psychology to keep the place under control to the point he could put on a main event. Fans sitting near me, who complained all night about no blood and how they were forced to sit through ten matches without any real stars like the WWF gives them, were also complaining any time someone tried to do any wrestling saying they could see that wrestling crap at the WWF shows. This was far from the worst wrestling show I've ever seen, and from a effort standpoint, world's better than almost any WWF and WCW regular house shows. From a work and execution standpoint it was nowhere close to what WWF and WCW provide at a standard house show.

In some ways ECW live was the opposite of the defunct SMW group. SMW relied on old tricks and psychology and the guys worked hard but took advantage of every psychological shortcut. The best analogy came from Sandman who said that since the crowds down there were so easy, that guys learned the shortcuts and started coasting. SMW featured veterans who largely knew what they were doing. There were never, or at least rarely, spots in the match where the guys got lost and

you'd want to groan, although nobody was regularly risking their bodies like they did in places like Mexico and Japan to elevate the style. If anything, that was the last thing Jim Cornette wanted. ECW matches have the guys take unbelievable risks, but they get lost in the matches and there are a lot of miscues. For pure working ability, SMW was tons better than ECW. For workrate, there is no comparison as well, with ECW having the edge.

The Big Ass Bash in New York was a depressing night, among the most depressing nights I've ever spent watching pro wrestling.

The creation of the mad scientist combined with numerous other forces such as freezing weather, bad site lines, and just living in New York, led to an audience with no respect for the incredible amount of work he and his company put into the show. It was an audience that was the reality of the worst John McCain fantasy about what violence and UFC are supposedly to be about. The mad scientist himself was quick to acknowledge it and take the blame. At a team meeting the next night, Paul Heyman said the show sucked and took the blame himself, saying he tried to give people something they didn't want to see, and the next time, he'd give them what they came for. However, for a group whose logo is its initials wrapped in bloody barbed wire; a group that regularly uses props like a baseball bat wrapped in barbed wire, and whose fans have been encouraged to hand wrestlers everything including the kitchen sink (there were items as bizarre as hockey sticks confiscated from fans as they entered the building), running a show in front of a strict commission with a self-imposed blood ban, it's going to be very hard to give that audience what it came to see. Was this crowd a product of New York City, or of the television or of the building or the bad weather?

The only similarity between the ECW Arena the next night, the bingo hall which is the home base for ECW, and the Lost Battalion Hall were that it was largely the same group of wrestlers and a similar workrate, and that both small arenas were crammed full of people.

In Philadelphia, Foley got a thunderous and amazingly respectful standing ovation prior to and after his last match under the ring name Cactus Jack before joining the WWF as ManKind the next evening in Corpus Christi. His post match speech in his last night under the gimmick was among the best things I've ever seen at a house show. Mysterio Jr. and Guerrero, spurred on by the crowd, had one of the greatest matches ever in the building. Everyone who was a regular was over with their gimmick. The crowd, while wanting blood, for the most didn't let the lack of it damper their enjoyment of the show. As Heyman said before the show in the same speech, this is our home base fans and we know what they want and we're going to give it to them. And they did. They made them laugh. They made them cry, well almost. They made them happy and made them sad. It wasn't flawless, and the crowd was quick to pick up on every flaw, particularly if it came from a newcomer not a part of their team. They chanted "don't come back" at Rick Bogner. Bogner, a Canadian who was a major star in FMW before jumping to WAR, whose ring name, Big Titan, is a heat getter and in its own way, after he worked a sometimes spectacular and other times clumsy match with Sabu. Fans loudly chanted "You f---ed up" at missed spots throughout the show, a few of which appeared to have been missed on purpose by wrestlers to get that reaction and chanted to end a prelim match which was obviously put there to be the backdrop of an angle.

To the credit of those running the company and those working for the company, the dressing room was more motivated with the idea of putting on a great show for the fans than any in the world. From top to bottom, I've never seen a crew work as hard and take as many risks, and that's from someone who regularly sees AAA live. That has its down side as well. Post-match looked more like the triage room in a hospital after a gang rumble than after a sporting event. Because they only work a few shows a month and are generally younger, they can survive taking more risks than the guys with the big paychecks can get away with or would want to get away with. The concept of playing with pain is taken to a level of borderline insanity when Scott Levy (Raven) worked two matches even though he needed crutches to get around because of contracting gout. The injury rate looks ridiculous to people brought up on the concept of pro wrestling being that you may it look like you're hurting people without anyone actually getting seriously hurt. Hack Myers suffered a fourth degree shoulder separation. Tommy Dreamer's body is falling apart from the brutality. Sandman took chair shots so stiff from the Head Hunters that he couldn't remember anything about his match later that night. J.T. Smith's hand was a mess when Axl Rotten threw a heavy fire extinguisher on it. One of the job guys, Joel Hartgood, named after a former promoter, had a nasty black eye when Sandman gave him a vicious cane shot that missed the forehead. The byproduct of working before a crowd that doesn't accept anything but the stiffest chair and cane shots to the head is a lot of scrambled brain cells.

But the show was very good, and excellent to the point of being off the charts in certain spots. In other spots it was maybe a little long, there were too many matches and too many angles (when the average fan can't remember the next morning running down the show all the angles, then it's a lock that they didn't all get across) it dragged in spots. But it could stand up to everything but the very best any major promotion in the world could produce even though by and large it has a less experienced crew who make up a lot of shortcomings in regard to skill and experience with enthusiasm and insanity. The angles were great for the audience.

There are still the catch-22s. Seeing the show live, because of the make-up of the audience, all the swearing wasn't a problem at all. Nobody live gets offended. The constant insulting of WCW was sometimes funny (such as New Jack saying that when he was in jail it was such an unbearable experience because they forced him to watch WCW on television or Cactus Jack saying that leaving this building is going to hurt me as much as it did when I had to sue my Uncle Eric or Shane Douglas ripping a t-shirt off ala Hogan, mentioning him by name and saying that was an easy as shit), but also overdone at times. In New York, Douglas got booed by a lot of fans, although not the majority, when he insulted other promotions and in particular when he opened by saying "Shawn Michaels, kiss my ass."

The swearing, violence and beating up of women, the most controversial aspects of the promotion, seem fine as a performance to the audience it is designed at in Philadelphia. However, the same stuff airing on television is a problem on many levels. It causes most self respecting television stations to steer clear of the show, even though it's often the most entertaining hour of wrestling in the country. It causes most self respecting wrestling fans to be turned off of attending live by the hard edge and apparently violent live crowd, while turning on a small segment that is there expecting to see things that are dangerous and now, in the case of blood, that they can no longer deliver although they do deliver on most everything else

they tease. The other side of the coin is that if they presented wrestling with no shock value, because the names are newer and because wrestling is overexposed for free already, they'd have a hard time going anywhere either.

The ECW Arena audience is unique and loves the violence, but still didn't seem dangerous, even when superheel Bill Alfonso or Brian Pillman were doing their things. New York was a throwback to the old days of heels (well, those two heels) getting heat and fans wanting to throw things and jump them, but with the lack of security, even in a building where alcohol was banned, the crowd nearly got the show stopped.

Showing the same stuff on television to people who haven't been attending matches every three weeks for the past two years creates an audience that is completely different from Philadelphia. Philadelphia is a relatively controlled and at least largely (not totally) respectful audience of the performers that appear on television to be totally out of control. The perception from watching television of the danger of going to the ECW Arena is exaggerated, however the perception becomes the reality in new markets. New market fans will believe when they attend they have the right to be totally out of control as well, except in many cases they will lack the respect for the performers and have no respect for other fans. The result in those instances is a horribly reacting and borderline dangerous audience.

Results from Queens, NY were:

1. Kendo Nagasaki (in because Big Japan Pro Wrestling and ECW are apparently going to do talent booking deals) & Christopher Michaels beat Damian Stone (James Stone from UWFI) & Joel Hartgood in 1:31 when Michaels pinned Storm. Nagasaki, who wasn't advertised, got a huge face pop, not because fans were aware of Japanese wrestling, but the buzz was around the crowd that this was the guy who feuded with Dusty Rhodes in Florida (when Florida wrestling was on TV in New York). Geez, that was 1982. Nagasaki destroyed both opponents and his partner with totally brutal chair shots, then walked out leaving his partner against both. His partner still ended up winning in 1:31 when he powerslammed Stone. Sandman then came out to the biggest pop of the night throwing brutal cane shots at all three wrestlers left in the ring and the referee. Hartgood took the shot in the eye and his eye looked like hell within seconds. *

2. J.T. Smith beat Hack Myers in 2:47 when Axl Rotten interfered attacking Smith. Smith, who does a silly but hilarious Italian heel gimmick even though he's black, then made a comeback on Rotten and was on the top rope when Myers hit him with a chair. 1/2*

Douglas came out for an interview saying that Vince McMahon can't touch this and said he was in purgatory for six months and ripped on Shawn Michaels, Razor Ramon, 1-2-3 Kid, etc. Brian Pillman was at ringside as a spectator and started going nuts. Pillman brought up how Douglas quit WCW, quit WWF, quit the Dynamic Dudes and quit everything and said that a real man doesn't quit, a real man gets fired. Douglas threatened to punch Pillman when he counted to three, but Pillman pulled a very young child (a child actor) in front of him and Douglas went to punch the kid but stopped just short as the kid freaked out. The security ended up dragging Pillman out of the building, but not before fans started swinging chairs,

and Pillman wound up getting punched by fans on the way out. Douglas was booed a decent amount as well. Then Tod Gordon came out and Bill Alfonso followed. Alfonso slapped Gordon. Fans started throwing things and Joey Styles was getting pelted. Taz came out and Alfonso hit Gordon with a chair and started beating on him. Bam Bam Bigelow then came out and Taz hit him with a chair but Bigelow didn't sell it and Taz and Alfonso left. Fans chanted "LT" and "LT sucks" at Bigelow. They also made ambulance noises (which was pretty funny) as the medical personnel tried to help Gordon up. At this point it was already 9:05 p.m. and we'd seen four minutes of wrestling.

3. Chris Jericho pinned Cactus Jack in 13:55 with a german suplex. Jack was announced as being from Stamford, CT and being known to all as ManKind. Stevie Richards (who is phenomenal on interviews) and Blue Meanie (who is also a riot), who are known as the Fabulous Ones and do a gimmick where they pretend they drew big houses in Memphis with Richards sometimes calling Meanie "Stan" and of course Meanie calls Richards "Steve" came out and Cactus said that since he's going to WWF, he asked if he could be a third member of the Fabulous Ones and do the Fargo strut and all three did the strut. Match had good psychology in theory but the crowd didn't get into it which hurt the match. Mikey Whipwreck came to ringside at the finish. After the match, Jack grabbed the mic to booing and "You sold out" chants and said to the fans that when he was growing up, his dad took him to Madison Square Garden and told him maybe when he grew up he could wrestle there and he told his dad he'd rather wrestle for a bunch of idiot morons at Lost Battalion Hall. He then said that all the people giving him the finger would worship him when he goes to Wrestlemania. He asked for a ten bell salute to signal the end of his career as Cactus Jack while fans chanted "asshole" at him and a few fans clapped respectfully.
**3/4

4. Taz pinned Mikey Whipwreck in 4:12 with a head and arm suplex and Taz-mission (basically a choke) finish. This was very good while it lasted, with at one point Taz giving Whipwreck an over the head belly to belly over the top rope to floor. This also had good psychology in the spots that was totally lost on the crowd. After the match Taz wouldn't break the hold and Bigelow came out. As Alfonso distracted Bigelow, Taz clipped him and choked him out while Alfonso hit the ref and several jobbers with chair shots as they tried to break it up.
**1/2

5. Eliminators beat Pit Bulls in 14:06 to keep the ECW tag titles. These guys worked like crazy and did lots of great spots but missed a lot of spots as well. The Eliminators have a lot of potential and can do great athletic maneuvers but need experience. Pit Bull #2 is in the same boat. At one point he went for a spin kick into the corner and sailed so far over the head of the guy he was kicking that he went over the top rope and wiped out a camera man. In edited form, it'll look like a four-star match. They wound up pinning Pit Bull #2 with the total elimination after numerous false finishes. **3/4

6. Juventud Guerrera won 2/3 falls from Rey Misterio Jr. in 16:26. Nobody reacted to Guerrera while Misterio coming out only got polite applause. As they were doing amazing spots, a chant started of "We Want Mascaras." Great moves and no pops as Misterio Jr. won the first fall with the Japanese Ocean Cyclone suplex which may have been a first for that move in the United States. As Guerrera threw great chops, the place was yelling "Whoo!" in reference to Flair. Misterio Jr. did an Arabian moonsault to the floor and they traded chair shots.

Lots of great near falls before Guerrera used the dragon suplex for the second fall. Guerrera did more hot moves including a springboard leg lariat for a near fall which got no reaction, a springboard dropkick from the top rope onto Misterio Jr. on the apron followed by a Liger flip dive. He tried a springboard Frankensteiner but Misterio power bombed him. Misterio did a springboard somersault tope to the floor. All kinds of great near falls. Guerrera used a brainbuster for a near fall, Misterio kicked out but the ref counted three anyway which was a bad finish. Guerrera signalled for the match to continue because it wasn't supposed to be the finish and the ref after about a minute recognized his mistake and re-started it, but it killed the finish. The two brawled stiff to no reaction, and finally Guerrera used a brainbuster while standing on the top rope for the pin.

****1/4

7. Big Titan pinned Dredd in 3:42 with a power bomb. Fans were chanting "End this match" within 70 seconds. They gave them no chance but it was a horrible match. -1/4*

8. Scorpio went to a 20:00 draw with Sabu to keep the TV title. This also had some death defying moves by Sabu and some great top rope moves by Scorpio, but in between it was pretty weak. There were "bullshit" and "boring" chants early as they tried to wrestle. Sabu did a flip plancha and then put a chair midway in the ring, ran across, leaped off the chair to the top rope where he did a springboard dive several rows deep into the crowd. No psychology and tons of missed spots as well. Sabu did a plancha into a Frankensteiner on the floor. At another point Sabu leaped off a chair with a Frankensteiner on Scorpio outside the ring and through a table which looked dangerous as hell. At one point strippers were passing around cards and nobody paid attention to the wrestlers. At another point, there was a fight in the stands and nobody watched the wrestlers. Although I didn't see this, I believe at another point a woman in the stands finally paid attention to the "show your tits" chants and she was carted off. The intense finish never took place because the crowd had been killed and had killed the match past the point of no return. Sabu teased jumping through a table after the match, but then walked off and the fans booed him as he left. *1/2

9. Dances With Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley beat Head Hunters in 2:36 when Buh Buh schoolboyed B. Buh Buh got a great reaction. DUD

After the match The Gangstas did a run-in to a tremendous reception. The fans went nuts and started just pelting the ring and ringside area with garbage. They kept the Gangstas music during the entire run-in which was a 4:00 brawl with all kinds of objects. It was a real wild scene. The commission wanted the show shut down at this point because the crowd was out of control. Paul Heyman came out, slipping on the wet floor from all the garbage thrown, and said that the commission wanted the show stopped and not to throw things. People started booing him when a group out of Philadelphia started chanting "Don't throw things" which turned the crowd with him. He said that what if Sandman (about the only guy on the show they seemed to really like) were to slip and get hurt and not be able to wrestle because you threw so many things and told the crowd they have to be able to police themselves. He used great psychology in the speech. After the crowd was calmed down he said that they had broken the 11 p.m. curfew (it was about 11:30 at this point) and the commission wants the show shut down and basically whipped the crowd into a frenzy again saying that they want us to all go home but we're going to give you a main event and f--- the commission and all that.

10. Raven, who couldn't walk, retained his title beating Sandman in 12:27. Basically this match consisted of Sandman getting hit with constant outside interference from Cactus, Richards and Meanie and always kicking out. In addition, Missy Hyatt and Kimona Wanaleia did their cat fight spots. Douglas hit Raven with a chair and put Sandman on top, Meanie hit Sandman with a chair and put Raven on top, etc. It was actually pretty good considering that Raven couldn't walk, but the finish was a mess as Raven DDT'd Sandman on a guard rail brought into the ring but the move missed badly. *1/2

As for Philadelphia:

Before the show started, The Gangstas came out. A "fan" (actually New Jack's wife who I guess will be the next female character involved) came out and tried to jump on New Jack and security carried her out. New Jack motioned that he wanted her back and led the crowd in chanting "bring her back" to establish himself as a total face. New Jack did a total babyface rap talking about how he was in jail for six weeks (more like six days) and told a funny story about how a guy owed him money and he put him in the trunk of his car and forgot he never let him out and the next thing he knew he was in jail (that's not exactly what happened). He said while in jail he missed all the sick people in Philadelphia. He said jail was like torture because they forced him to watch WCW on television and then ran down WWF & WCW. Damian Kane, who managed The Head Hunters who all attacked Mustafa on the card when New Jack missed the show because he was in jail, came out and asked to manage the Gangstas for the match against Scorpio & Sandman later in the show. New Jack brought up how Jim Cornette wanted to do the same thing and then wanted to f--- him with a tennis racquet to which Joey Styles said something about a banana. He said he told Cornette to suck his nuts. Kane said that he knew New Jack hadn't seen any pussy in six weeks because he was in prison and basically offered him Lady Alexandra (another valet) and New Jack started thinking about it but eventually punched Kane and this wound up with the main event being changed to a three-way-dance match which got a huge pop.

1. Smith pinned Rotten in 6:50 with a low blow using his feet on the ropes. Rotten used a fire extinguisher. Smith's hand was screwed up which led to him missing a few spots. *1/2

2. Stone & El Puerto Ricano went to a no contest with Bad Crew in 1:48. Pillman ran in and attacked all four to end the match. DUD

Pillman started doing an interview. Douglas was on stage and tried to say it was a WCW wrestler trying to ruin ECW. Pillman challenged Douglas to a fight, Douglas came down and Pillman left. Douglas ripped his t-shirt and made fun of Hogan. He then threw his t-shirt to the crowd and a fan threw it back. Douglas got po'd and challenged the fan to fight (similar to a situation at the last show). Douglas was pretty good on the mic but if they took the phrase "piece of shit" out of his vocabulary, he couldn't do a sentence.

3. Eliminators kept the tag titles beating Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Hack Myers. Eliminators knocked Chubby Dudley and Sign Guy Dudley off the apron. Big Dick Dudley wanted to join Buh Buh in the match but he was dragged off because of his bad knee. Sign Guy (who is supposedly a mute) wrote a sign that said "Help" and was waving it and the Eliminators gave him the total elimination. Finally Myers came in but he was legit hurt quickly so Buh Buh had to work the match himself. Myers, in

great pain, tagged in to get totally eliminated for the pin in 8:15.
*1/2

4. Jericho beat Taz via DQ in 6:00. This was a hot match. At one point Taz used the head and arm suplex and the ref stopped the match ruling Jericho unable to continue. Jericho begged to re-start the match, which they did. Taz used a german suplex and Taz-mission and apparently won, but I guess refused to break the hold because they said Jericho won via DQ. ***1/2

Taz wouldn't break the hold and they ran guys in to get destroyed. Pillman then ran in and started stomping the fallen guys that Taz had destroyed. Douglas came out and Pillman ran away into the arms of Harry Boatwain, a lineman on the Philadelphia Eagles. Douglas did another interview and started challenging the same fan to fight in a segment that went way too long. The ring broke during the previous match and they had about a 40 minute delay in getting it fixed. After the delay, Heyman started yelling at the ring crew about how long it took them to fix the ring and Sandman came out and caned the ring crew members very hard. I guess everyone wants to be in show biz.

5. Misterio Jr. won 2/3 falls from Guerrera in 15:57. In the first fall, Misterio did a springboard moonsault to the floor and Guerrera did a springboard somersault dropkick from the apron inside the ring. Guerrera took the fall with a dragon suplex. Misterio Jr. did a huracanrana off the top rope onto Guerrera on the apron that was amazing and a Liger dive off the referee's back to the floor. He finally used a doctor bomb for the fall. Third fall saw Guerrera do an Asai moonsault, a springboard leg lariat from the apron into the ring, Misterio did a springboard somersault plancha to the floor, they went outside and traded chair shots. Guerrera power bombed Misterio in the snow off a car and Misterio gave Guerrera a Frankensteiner off a car onto the parking lot snow. After tons of near falls, Guerrera went for a die hard (splash mountain) while standing on the middle rope, but on the way down, Misterio Jr. turned it into a Frankensteiner for the pin. ****3/4

6. Cactus Jack, in his last match, pinned Whipwreck in 17:18. Jack said that Whipwreck will some day be able to tell his grandchildren that he had Cactus Jack's last match, but he'll be damned if Whipwreck will be able to tell them that he beat Cactus Jack in his last match. Jack got a thunderous ovation and Whipwreck was heavily booed. Jack pulled out all his spots from the beginning. He suplexed Whipwreck onto a vertical table. He did the hip busting elbow off the second rope to the floor. Whipwreck did a springboard flip dive into the third row. Tons of brutal chair shots. After three chair shots, Jack got the pin with a piledriver on a chair. Jack gave a hilarious and somewhat moving speech after the match, saying he wanted to thank the two men who make ECW what it is, the creative genius behind the promotion and the man whose vision it was that created the promotion, teasing Heyman and Gordon, and then called for Richards and Meanie to come out. They played "New York, New York" over the p.a. and the three did their high stepping dance routine to the song and a Fabulous Ones strut out of the building. ****

7. Pit Bulls and Bruise Brothers went to a no contest in 16:58. Lots of brawling with some good spots and missed spots. It wound up with Richards, Meanie and Tommy Dreamer all involved. Dreamer pulled his arm out of the sling and started punching the Bruise Brothers with it when it looked like he was cornered. Dreamer destroyed Meanie. **

8. Sabu pinned Titan with the Arabian facebuster in 12:18. Typical collection of awesome spots and badly missed spots on each man's part. Fans didn't like Titan and he looked bad at times but did great stuff at other times. Titan did a plancha, and later tried a second but Sabu moved and he went through a table. **

9. Raven pinned Douglas in 8:40 with a DDT on a chair to keep the ECW title. This was an amazing performance by both considering Raven's limitations since he shouldn't have been in the ring. Lots of outside interference by Meanie and Richards leading to near falls which Douglas kicked out of. At another point Wanaleia saved Raven for a pin, after which Douglas pulled up her dress and spanked her, and naturally she liked it and began bobbing her butt in a seductive manner and Douglas got distracted and practically started making out with her before Raven jumped him. After the match, the Bruise Brothers attacked Douglas and went to ram his groin into the post but Dreamer made the save. They then went to do the same to Dreamer but Sandman made the save. ***1/4

10. Gangstas won the three-way dance in 14:22 over Head Hunters and Scorpio & Sandman. They brawled all over the place with brutal chair and cane and other weapon shots. It was stiff enough that Sandman was knocked silly by a chair shots (and took numerous others after that point) and Hunters took cane shots so hard they had lumps on their noggin as well. Scorpio did a plancha into the third row at one point onto. Scorpio pinned Hunter B in 9:51 with a scorpio splash. Hunters and Sandman brawled to the back after the match leaving Scorpio alone with both Gangstas and New Jack ended up pinning Scorpio to win the match with a splash off the top rope. ***1/4

Raven will be kept out of action for two weeks so he can clear up his gout condition, so the shows this weekend have been changed. On 3/15 in Jim Thorpe, PA it'll be Shane Douglas & Tommy Dreamer (in his first match back since tearing up his shoulder) vs. Bruise Brothers in a falls count anywhere match, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Sabu for the TV title, Taz vs. Mikey Whipwreck, Eliminators defending the tag titles against Pit Bulls, Sandman vs. Axl Rotten and Chris Jericho vs. Stevie Richards.

3/16 in Glenolden, PA has Sandman & Douglas vs. Bruise Brothers, Scorpio vs. New Jack for the TV title, Sabu vs. Mustafa, Eliminators defending against Pit Bulls, Taz vs. Whipwreck and more.

MARCH 25, 1996

Brian Pillman officially quit ECW just hours earlier after a 4 a.m. phone conversation with Paul Heyman and another with Steve Karel with the two sides disagreeing regarding payment for the production of a commercial for Pillman's newly created 900 line. Pillman claimed that was part of his agreement to go to ECW, while ECW presented him with a \$7,600 bill for production. The heat between the two sides turned out to be really bad over that and other aspects of each's ideas on how he would be used, with Pillman vowing that under no circumstances would he ever work for ECW again and feeling working the style that gets over to those fans posed an unacceptable injury risk, although by the next day the situation may have changed again as far as him perhaps doing videos for the television show but not as far as doing a match.

Only matches announced for upcoming shows were 3/29 in Reading, PA with Raven defending the ECW title against Shane Douglas, Gangstas vs. Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio and Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers in a falls count anywhere; and 3/30 at the ECW Arena which will be headlined by Sandman & Tommy Dreamer & Douglas vs. Raven & Bruise Brothers.

Dreamer returned to the ring on 3/15 in Jim Thorpe, PA to team with Douglas against the Bruise Brothers in the main event. His bad shoulder held up at least to the point he didn't hurt it any worse, even though he took bumps outside the ring.

The two weekend house shows both drew packed houses, with a reported 666 in Jim Thorpe and 491 in Glenolden, PA on 3/16. The Jim Thorpe show had a very rowdy crowd that didn't get into any of the wrestling but loved the mayhem. However, it turned into a problem on several occasions since fans continually were getting into altercations with wrestlers. A fan grabbed the towel off Taz' head as he was coming to the ring and Taz was visibly pissed. Taz grabbed another fan later who apparently started stuff with him causing other wrestlers to calm him down. The fans were ejected. Rob Van Dam and Damien Stone had a well-worked match but before they even locked up the fans chanted "You both suck" at them. Sandman was scheduled for a match with Axl Rotten but he was destroyed by Raven and his nest before Dreamer & Douglas made the save and pretty much teased a new Triple Threat babyface grouping of Sandman & Dreamer & Douglas to build to the Philadelphia show. Sabu and Scorpio went to a 20:00 draw. There were "boring" chants in the early portion as they exchanged holds but was told it was a much better match then New York. Show finished with two great brawls with Eliminators over Pit Bulls and Bruise Brothers over Dreamer & Douglas. A fan hit one of the Bruise Brothers with a chair during the match.

In Glenolden. Another fan took off his shirt and challenged Taz and was thrown out, but this apparently looked way too much like a work. The Gangstas, also as a work, beat up a security guy. Scorpio wrestled New Jack in a single for the first time. Scorpio had his nose sliced open hardway and was bleeding from it. After Scorpio won, Mustafa joined in the fun and Sabu made the save for Scorpio. Scorpio then offered him a TV title match for saving him, but they traded a few spots before Scorpio simply walked out and Sabu brawled with him for a double count out. Bruise Brothers beat Douglas & Sandman. One of the Bruise Brothers bled during this match which was reported to us as a hardway job. Blue Meanie went to moonsault Missy Hyatt after the match but Sandman took the moonsault instead, and Dreamer made the save leaving the three faces in the ring together.

Raven (Scott Levy) has a part on the UPN show "Swift Justice" that airs on 3/27.

Upcoming ECW Arena dates are 4/20, 5/11 and 6/1, while they are back in Queens on 4/13 and debut in Jersey City, NJ on 4/12.

Scorpio & Sabu's match from the February ECW Arena show aired almost in its entirety (27:00 of 30:00) on television and it was a ****1/2 match.

APRIL 1, 1996

The television show that aired on 3/19 was among the three or four best shows in the history of the company, largely due to them airing highlights of Rey Mysterio Jr. vs. Juventud Guerrera from Queens, the entire match from Philadelphia and the non-wrestling aspect of the show was the Brian Pillman show. Pillman, who is back in good graces with ECW (which may be more than can be said with WCW), was involved in two angles (one from Queens, the other from Philadelphia), and two vignettes, one in which he was acting like he got a new job as a book in a restaurant and spit on the salad he was making for Gary Juster, and the other, the show ender, where an old man asked him for his autograph and he was acting normal and the guy said that he's different from how he appears on television, and Pillman basically said that loose cannon stuff is all a work, then after the guy left, he went crazy as the show ended.

Anyway, whatever problems existed between Pillman and Heyman were resolved (Heyman claims there were no problems to begin with) on 3/19. Both have pretty well agreed to build the angle toward a Pillman vs. Shane Douglas match in Philadelphia, but at a larger arena, with talk of them moving to a 3,000-seat building in late April although nothing has been announced officially.

Since Pillman does, in fact, have contractual ties to WCW through the middle of April, for him to work on TV here means it was done with WCW's approval which means, despite public portrayals to the contrary, the sides are working together at the very least in this specific instance. Heyman denies any working with WCW saying Steve Karel put the deal together through a mutual friend of his and Pillman's and that he would never work with WCW.

Line-up for 3/30 at ECW Arena besides the six-man main event with Sandman & Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas vs. Raven & Bruise Brothers, will be Too Cold Scorpio vs. Rob Van Dam for the TV title, Taz vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Pit Bulls vs. Stevie Richards & Blue Meanie and the debut of Billy Black.

After seeing the TV version of Mysterio-Guerrera from Philadelphia and the video from Tijuana, I'd have to rate the Philadelphia match as better even though Tijuana had more heat and psychology. My feeling from watching the TV version is it was the best match ever on ECW television and the best match of the year from any promotion thus far. For all the valid knocks about ECW's style and that certain performers aren't nearly as good as people (including those in the business, witness certain unsuccessful post-ECW pushes) think, they've had two TV matches in the last three weeks (Mysterio-Guerrera and the 30:00 Sabu-Scorpio) that are better than anything in the U.S. this year and better than all but a few matches in the U.S. last year as well.

APRIL 8, 1996

The 3/30 show at the ECW Arena was an interesting test since most of the good working regulars of late such as Chris Jericho, Rey Mysterio Jr., Juventud Guerrera and even Sabu were unavailable. Very little was hyped about the card except for the six-man main event. ECW officials are claiming the crowd at 1,148, although the several reports we received all said the crowd was 300 or more down from the previous show with estimates ranging from 750 to 1,000 and the heat and work were way down from the hot show on 3/9. Among the highlights were Joey Styles in the introduction telling fans that ECW would be on "network TV" starting 4/5 (well, Prime

Network) and that they were setting up their first PPV show. Damien Kane then did a long interview where he destroyed El Puerto Ricano and said he was going to prove how tough he was, and finally Mikey Whipwreck accepted his challenge and ended up pinning him. The fans hated Kane although I was told his work was solid. J.T. Smith beat Hack Myers in a stretcher match by working over Hack's legit bad shoulder. Taz beat Buh Buh Ray Dudley in a quick match. Even though Buh Buh is the face and Taz is supposed to be the most hated heel in the company with Bill Alfonso in his corner, the cheers were 60% pro-Taz which a lot of fans felt was the sign that the Buh gimmick has run its course. Gangstas beat Blue Meanie & Chad Austin (subbing for Stevie Richards who suffered a broken orbital bone in his eye the night before). Austin came out with a crewcut and called himself Stone Cold Chad Austin. Patricia came out as Meanie's girlfriend which drove Richards crazy. Gangstas totally destroyed them with stiff blows with objects. After the match, New Jack said he ran into Johnny Grunge who told him what he's now doing is entertainment and wanted to ask Austin if he was just entertained and challenged Eliminators for the belts. Eliminators then defended against a team called the Dark Riders, who were Billy Black & The Punisher from SMW. It was a short match. Punisher has potential and Black showed some good moves. Too Cold Scorpio retained the TV title beating Rob Van Dam. The match was supposed to go 29:59 with them teasing the draw but doing the pin at the end. The match had a lot of good moves but lacked in psychology and the crowd reactions weren't much. When they announced five minutes left, the crowd booed because they were thinking draw. At the ten second announcement, Scorpio went to the finish, but it took him 15 seconds to do it and everyone knew it. Van Dam got a great ovation for doing the job and worked very hard. Eliminators and Gangstas did a brawl which ended up with them making a New Jack sandwich between two tables and then doing the total elimination on him. Raven then came out with a special boot (sounds like the old loaded boot gimmick) with a doctor talking about his injury. I guess he messed up his foot at the last set of shows when he worked on it with gout so the injury is legit although the special boot part isn't. It wound up in a six-way brawl with Raven & Bruise Brothers against Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas & Sandman which saw Brian Lee debut and attack Dreamer. They wound up having Raven put Douglas threw a table, Douglas put Raven through a door that they had pulled off a wall, they went through a wall, Lee ran out and destroyed Dreamer and Sandman saved him with his cane. Bruise Brothers went to crotch Dreamer but Sandman saved him again. Then when they went to crotch Sandman, Douglas ignored it and pinned Raven instead of saving him.

Next show is 4/20 with Raven defending against Douglas and Dreamer vs. Lee.

Other upcoming shows are 4/12 in Glenolden, PA with Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Lee & Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Black, Raven vs. Axl Rotten for the title, Scorpio vs. Buh Buh for the TV title, Taz vs. Jericho and Gangstas vs. Bad Crew; 4/13 in Queens, NY with Gangstas, Head Hunters and Sandman & Scorpio in a three-way dance, Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Lee & Bruise Brothers, Sabu vs. Whipwreck, Raven vs. Buh Buh for the title, Eliminators vs. Black & Punisher; and 4/19 in Plymouth Meeting, PA with Raven vs. Dreamer in a lumberjack match for the title, Taz vs. Whipwreck, Scorpio vs. Sabu for TV title, Gangstas vs. Black & Punisher and Pit Bulls vs. Bad Crew.

Sports Channel Ohio, Prime Sports West and Sports South will all debut ECW at 2 a.m. on Friday nights starting this weekend.

For whatever this is worth, there were no Brian Pillman spots on the ECW television show this week after three spots airing the week before, and Pillman nor anyone representing him were at the ECW Arena show over the weekend.

Louie Spicoli missed his scheduled debut this past weekend due to breaking an ankle in mid-week.

APRIL 15, 1996

Updated line-ups: 4/12 in Glenolden, PA has Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Brian Lee & Bruise Brothers, Shane Douglas vs. Rob Van Dam, Sabu vs. Billy Black, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Buh Buh Ray Dudley for the TV title, Raven vs. Axl Rotten for ECW title, Gangstas vs. Bad Crew, Chris Jericho vs. Damian (from AAA) and more.

4/13 in Queens, NY has Gangstas vs. Head Hunters vs. Sandman & Scorpio in a three-way dance triangular match, Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Lee & Bruise Brothers, Raven defending against Damian, Sabu vs. Mikey Whipwreck, in what is billed as shoot fight, Taz vs. Jericho (Tod Gordon handcuffed to Bill Alfonso) and Douglas vs. Van Dam.

4/19 in Plymouth Meeting, PA has Raven vs. Dreamer for the title in a lumberjack match, Scorpio vs. Sabu for TV title, Taz vs. Whipwreck (Gordon handcuffed to Alfonso), Gangstas vs. Head Hunters falls count anywhere, Pit Bulls vs. Bad Crew and Lee vs. Rotten.

4/20 at ECW Arena is Raven vs. Douglas for title, Sabu vs. Van Dam no time limit, Dreamer vs. Lee and Sandman & Scorpio vs. Bruise Brothers.

Correction from last week. The Brian Pillman commercials did air during the ECW show. On the TV show it was announced that Pillman wouldn't be on ECW television anymore unless he agrees to a match with Douglas. Apparently there is talk of doing such a match and now it's very probable it'll happen, but nothing definite yet about a time or place.

Raven legitimately has problems in both his toe and ankle (misaligned bones) and may need surgery. He's using the legit injury as a gimmick to start using the loaded boot gimmick.

At one point it appeared that Richards was going to have to undergo surgery this past week from the broken orbital bone suffered in a match on 3/29 against Van Dam, however a second opinion was that he wouldn't need surgery but he won't be either in the ring or taking any bumps for a while.

This group will run pretty much regularly on Sports South, Sports Channel Ohio and Prime Ticket in Los Angeles on Friday nights at 2 a.m. and fairly regularly, depending upon other programming, on PASS in Detroit, Prime Sports Northwest and Empire Sports in upstate New York.

APRIL 22, 1996

4/13 at the Lost Battalion Hall in Queens before 1,100 fans (paid was either 800 or 1,000 depending upon who one wishes to believe). Opener saw Damien Stone (who may have gone by the name James Stone since between Damian from AAA and Damien Kane there are too many Damiens for one promotion) & J.T. Smith over Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick

Dudley via DQ when a new Dudley, a black Dudley brother named Devon Dudley (the first graduate of the ECW training school) interfered attacking Smith, Stone and ref Pee Wee Moore. Hack Myers pinned Billy Black in 6:01. Eliminators beat El Puerto Rican & Joel Hartgood in 2:08 and Gangstas did a post-match run-in which ended up with them being handcuffed and taken out of the building. Raven kept the ECW title pinning Damian in 8:30 in a decent match. Damian got over pretty well in New York doing his imitations with some of the fans although it was reported that the majority of the fans didn't know what he was doing. Reports were as far as this weekend being his audition to become a regular, he passed his audition. Rob Van Dam was scheduled to wrestle Shane Douglas but it was announced he wasn't there due to a broken wrist. Douglas got on the house mic and started running down Hulk Hogan, Razor Ramon and Shawn Michaels and swearing and looking for competition. Blue Meanie came out to wrestle him, but before that could happen, Axl Rotten showed up and used his barbed wire bat on Meanie. Douglas then pinned Rotten in 6:55 and they shook hands afterwards and Douglas said Rotten was his toughest opponent in months and led the crowd in chanting "Axl." In what was called a shoot fight, Taz beat Chris Jericho in 3:17. Taz came out with a group of seconds similar to UFC (actually students from the ECW school) and they used a ref in a karate gi. The match was said to have made no sense winding up when the ref gave Bill Alfonso the key to the handcuffs (he was cuffed to Tod Gordon) and he hit Jericho with a chair and Taz choked him out although Jericho never submitted and the ref signalled for the bell. After the match the ref choked out Gordon and Alfonso paid off the ref in the ring. Bruise Brothers & Brian Lee beat Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls in 11:45 of a wild match which went outside the building into the street and Lee ended up smashing Dreamer's head into a car windshield. Raven interfered and DDT'd Dreamer who was pinned. Sabu pinned Mikey Whipwreck in 15:21 of what was said to have been a very good match but the crowd was unappreciative of how hard both were working. The three-way dance with Gangstas, Head Hunters and Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio was the same basic brawl as in Philadelphia. This time the Head Hunters simply walked out and Sandman was KO'd, leaving Scorpio with both Gangstas and he was pinned in 18:57. Missy and Lady Alexander did a cat-fight bit. Overall the card was reported as slightly above average, with a weak first half of the card and a good second half. They also did an angle which should end up with Douglas being managed by Kimona Wanalea. Raven & Steve Richards (who was expected to undergo surgery due to the broken orbital bone near his eye before you read this) turned on Kimona and Kimona ended up with Douglas with the story that she knows all about Raven and is going to tell Douglas secrets about him that'll enable him to win the title on 4/20 in Philadelphia. The turn started actually at the 3/30 Philadelphia show when the Bruise Brothers held Beulah McGillicuddy and Raven was about to kick her in the stomach to cause her to miscarry but Kimona jumped in front to stop Raven and Raven threw her down. The time spent throwing down Kimona enabled Tommy Dreamer to make the diving save. Beulah, who on television looks to be something like 85-90 pounds now, is totally unrealistic at that weight of playing the part of someone who is so far along in her pregnancy. I don't know if they're going to end up doing the soap opera fake pregnancy angle as a mind game on Dreamer, but whatever they're doing, they need to do it quick because everyone who sees Beulah makes the comment that she's way too skinny to play the role they're portraying her as being.

The other weekend show was 4/12 in Glenolden, PA which drew about 400 with the highlight being a Head Hunters (replacing Bruise Brothers, who were doing a benefit at their

high school alma mater that night where they were basketball superstars many years ago--it was announced at the beginning of the show and refunds were offered) & Lee beating Pit Bulls & Dreamer in what was reported as one of the best brawls ever in ECW. Billy Black couldn't keep up with Sabu in the semi and they only did a **1/4 match. Damian didn't get over as well in Glenolden as in New York, losing to Chris Jericho.

Perry Saturn has been working on three cracked ribs.

The first two shows since this group increased its exposure to several Prime outlets have been widely regarded as two of the weaker shows in a while.

They are getting upgraded on Sports Channel Philadelphia with more promos for the show and two Tuesday airings, both at 5 p.m. and 11 p.m. effective immediately along with a late Monday replay and the late Friday 2 a.m. national feed.

Upcoming shows include 4/27 in Wilmington, DE and 5/18 debut in Allentown, PA at the old Ag Hall where WWF taped television in the early 80s. Other May dates are 5/10 in Reading, 5/11 at the ECW Arena and 5/17 in Glenolden, PA.

APRIL 29, 1996

In what is believed to be pro wrestling's first lesbian moment, the latest chapter in the Beulah McGillicuddy/Tommy Dreamer angle is that Beulah's pregnancy was a hoax and that she had been cheating on Dreamer with another of ECW's performers, woman stripper type Kimona Wanalea.

The latest climax of the angle took place on 4/20 at the ECW Arena in Philadelphia. Shane Douglas handled the mic work explaining to Dreamer that Kimona had told him that the pregnancy was a hoax on Dreamer and Beulah had been cheating on him. When Dreamer asked what guy she was cheating with, Douglas said it wasn't a guy and then Beulah and Kimona embraced and did a lengthy lesbian kiss which naturally got a big pop. But good triumphed at the end as Dreamer, explaining that he's hardcore, ended up kissing both of them and leaving, teasing another new kind of a three-way dance.

Blood is back, well, short of. On the 4/16 television show they aired an interview with Tommy Dreamer where he was bleeding during the promo. They also had blood on both weekend house shows, 4/19 in Plymouth Meeting, PA and 4/20 at the ECW Arena. The Plymouth Meeting show saw one of the Bruise Brothers bleed from the back of the head, so it was clearly unintentional. At the ECW Arena show, Raven bled in his title defense against Shane Douglas which was also said to be unintentional. According to Paul Heyman, because of insurance reasons, he said he's not even considering bringing back the blade and that under normal circumstances he'd have stopped the Raven-Douglas match because of the blood but since it was the main event, felt they needed to have the pin finish. He said Dreamer bleeding was planned but it was an interview, and not during a show so there is no insurance problem. He said that he overestimated the effect of the Tommy Morrison HIV story and that at some point in time the probability is blading might return, but it isn't going to be soon. The lack of blood had turned into an issue because the promotion was built on many things, blood being one of them, and at every show you can sense fans wanting blood.

The 4/20 show drew a full house estimated at about 1,075 for a good show with a hot crowd with the highlight being the Beulah angle and a Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam singles match. Show opened with The Gangstas doing a promo and The Eliminators came out and they brawled all over the place. Super Nova faced El Puerto Ricano in an opener which went 3:04 before the Eliminators beat up both guys and Gangstas ran in making the save. Mikey Whipwreck pinned Billy Black in 7:09. Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley went to a no contest with the Pit Bulls in 10:37. Taz beat the debuting Devon Storm (so I'd assume that means he's done with WCW) in 4:55 via count out after suplexing him over the top rope to the floor and choking him out on the floor. After the match, Storm did a stretcher job and Taz talked about him on the mic as being just another Sabu wannabe. Storm had just had his knee scoped and was told by his doctor not to get back in the ring until after the first week of May. Storm, who is currently attending medical school, said he wasn't getting booked enough with WCW since he was on a nightly deal, to pay his bills. Axl Rotten pinned Little Guido (formerly Damien Stone) in 6:51. Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio beat Bruise Brothers in 8:12. The most memorable part of the match was, after fans were chanting "Smoking Gunns" at the Bruise Brothers, one of the twins threw a chair into the crowd and it hit a fan. Heyman was really upset backstage by that. Brian Lee pinned Dreamer when the Bruise Brothers did a run-in with a cinderblock, which they put on his groin and hit the block with a chair. Sabu pinned Van Dam in the best match of the show with the typical crazy spots. Sabu re-injured his tailbone during the match. After the match, Sabu tried to shake Van Dam's hand but Van Dam refused. Raven kept the title pinning Shane Douglas in the main event when Stevie Richards interfered superkicking Douglas. Speaking of Richards, although we had expected him to be out of action for some time after the broken orbital bone in his face, he was actually back in the ring on an indie show in the Pittsburgh area on 4/21. After the match Douglas said that the ECW title was the only title in wrestling that means anything and he wouldn't wipe his ass with any other belt. This brought out Scorpio who said that people like he, Dean Malenko, Eddie Guerrero and Terry Funk worked very hard to make the ECW TV title mean something and asked who does Douglas think he is to degrade it. Douglas again said he wouldn't wipe his ass with the belt and wound up laying out both Scorpio and Sandman with the title belt after the match.

Only matches announced for 5/11 at the ECW Arena are Sabu vs. Van Dam in a respect match (basically the I Quit match rules) and Scorpio vs. Douglas for the TV title.

Beef Wellington (Shane Bower) from Calgary is headed in.

4/27 in Wilmington, DE at the Big Kahuna Night Club has Scorpio vs. Sabu for the TV title, Raven vs. Douglas for the ECW title, Eliminators & Richards vs. Pit Bulls & Francine, Sandman vs. Rotten, Taz vs. Whipwreck, Dreamer vs. J.T. Smith and Fred the Elephant Boy from the Howard Stern show tries to get a date with Missy Hyatt.

Smith was injured and couldn't wrestle over the weekend because D-Von Dudley didn't know how to throw a chair shot without killing anyone in New York and a week later, his ears were still ringing. They were supposed to debut he & Little Guido as an Italian tag team. On 4/19 in Plymouth Meeting, PA, Dudley, aware of what he did, toned down the chair shots he was supposed to do to the point they looked terrible.

4/19 show drew 350 with highlights being another 20:00 draw for the TV title with Scorpio and Sabu in a match with a lot of great spots, Douglas & Sandman beat Van Dam & Black in a bad match which ended up with Sandman caning Douglas, and Raven kept the title beating Dreamer when Lee interfered and after the match, the Pit Bulls super bombed Dreamer onto Blue Meanie through a table.

Head Hunters were advertised for the weekend shows but didn't appear because they were booked in FMW and won't be back until July.

MAY 6, 1996

Some upcoming line-ups. 5/10 in Reading, PA has Sabu vs. Damian, Tommy Dreamer vs. Brian Lee falls count anywhere, Shane Douglas vs. Rob Van Dam, Too Cold Scorpio vs. New Jack for the TV title and Chris Jericho vs. Mikey Whipwreck.

5/17 in Glenolden, PA has Perry Saturn vs. New Jack, John Kronus vs. Mustafa, Scorpio vs. Jericho for TV title, Dreamer vs. Lee falls count anywhere, Raven vs. Whipwreck for the ECW title and Pit Bulls vs. Dudleys.

5/18 in Allentown, PA has Eliminators vs. Gangstas for ECW tag titles, Douglas vs. Dreamer, Sabu vs. Whipwreck and Taz vs. Scorpio.

Some of the past week's ECW television show didn't air on MSG network due to censoring.

Missy Hyatt is putting out an ECW calendar with herself, Kimona, Francine and Beulah.

Bruise Brothers were suspended for three weeks for the chair throwing incident where one of them threw a chair at a fan.

El Puerto Ricano takes amazing bumps.

On television this past week, they aired the Beulah angle up to the point where Beulah and Kimona were about to kiss and then the show ended and they said you wouldn't believe what you'd see next week. It was a tremendous television show when it comes to hype even though there was wrestling to speak of aside from a short Super Nova vs. Puerto Ricano match that was really just a set-up for another Gangstas-Eliminators brawl.

According to New York State Athletic Commission figures, the 4/13 show in Queens, NY drew 595 paid and \$16,395, although both Paul Heyman and promoter Steve Karel claim that figure is inaccurate and low, saying that was the pre-sale figure. Another source independent of all that several days later gave us the same figures.

Weekend house shows were 4/26 in Jim Thorpe, PA before about 350 and 4/27 in Wilmington, DE before 518. The biggest angle was in Wilmington where Fred the Elephant Boy (Fred Schreiber) of the Howard Stern show did a deal where he's been sending love letters to Missy Hyatt. Hyatt told him to close his eyes and she'd give him a big kiss, so he closed his eyes and naturally Sandman caned him real hard.

MAY 13, 1996

Last week's television show didn't air on MSG in New York because of concerns over content, not only about the angle leading to the lesbian kiss but also about the spot where Missy Hyatt poured beer down her top and Sandman was licking the beer off her boobs. ECW edited the lesbian kiss out of the show that ran on 4/30, although that was largely done to sell videotapes.

The 5/11 ECW Arena show will be headlined by Tommy Dreamer & Gangstas vs. Brian Lee & Eliminators.

A correction from two weeks ago. D-Von Dudley is not a graduate of the ECW training school being run by Taz and Perry Saturn. He was actually trained several years ago by Johnny Rodz. Nobody from the ECW school will probably have a match for at least eight or nine months.

The angle where Diesel used Mad Dog Vachon's artificial leg was actually very similar and perhaps copied from something ECW did only a few months back where Too Cold Scorpio used the artificial arm of a fan in a match at the ECW Arena. Actually a whole hell of a lot of WWF TV recently is strikingly familiar to last year's ECW television such as the two Samoans dressed up to look exactly like Rocco Rock and Johnny Grunge, several of the spots in the Michaels/Diesel matches, the parade of women with boob jobs around ringside, an angle a minute with all the sexual overtones, etc.

Beef Wellington (Shane Bower) from Canada is expected to come in. He was turning into a good worker when Stampede Wrestling closed up but hasn't worked regularly in years.

MAY 20, 1996

The 5/11 ECW Arena show was reported as one of the better ECW shows ever in terms of quality wrestling as every match on the second half of the card ranged from very good to excellent. Crowd was estimated in the 1,000 range. It opened with El Puerto Ricano vs. Damian (WAR/AAA) going to a no contest when Sabu did a run-in and put both men through a table. Told it was one of the best openers ever in the building even though much of the crowd chanted "you suck" at Damian. Devon Storm & Damien Kane beat Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley via DQ when D-Von hit both Buh Buh and the ref with a chair. J.T. Smith & Little Guido (James "Damien" Stone) beat Axl Rotten & Hack Myers. They did a funny spot around this time where Tod Gordon came out and announced that there would be a three-way dance for the ECW title since Pit Bull #2 and Raven had tied in the non-existent fan balloting. Stevie Richards came out to try and bribe Gordon but Tod wouldn't listen, but then stole the money saying that's what everyone else in the business does anyway. Taz beat Beef Wellington in 4:53. Wellington looked bad. Raven kept the title in the three-way dance which went 18:26. Lots of outside interference and catfighting with Francine, Missy Hyatt and Patricia, who is being called The Meanie Babe as a spoof on Booty Babe since Blue Meanie is doing a Shawn Michaels gimmick. Raven pinned Pit Bull #2 when Sandman low blows him. Sandman got lots of near falls on Raven before losing after being DDT'd on the guard rail. The original plan was for Raven vs. Pit Bull #2 and Sandman vs. Louie Spicoli, who was going to show up as Rad Radford and Sandman was going to destroy a WWF character. Either the WWF got wind of this, or Spicoli has a ton of office heat, because even though he isn't working for WWF, he's still under contract with them and they refused to allow him to work ECW. After the match, Pit Bull #2 gave Meanie a super bomb with Sandman's help. Sandman

then let Missy make out with Pit Bull #2 only to have Francine go after Missy. Chris Jericho pinned Mikey Whipwreck in 12:00 in a good match, although there were lots of "This match sucks" chants. Shane Douglas won the TV title from Too Cold Scorpio in 26:31 with a belly-to-belly off the top rope. This was said to be by far the best match these two have ever worked together. Douglas said that Scorpio was the best TV champ ever and asked him to strap the belt on him, but Scorpio then took the belt and hit Douglas over the head with it, then put the belt and a chair on Douglas' face and legdropped him off the top rope. Rob Van Dam pinned Sabu in 18:47 with a split legged moonsault. This was said to be not quite at the level of the previous match but lots of incredible spots. The loser was supposed to say "I respect you" to the winner. Sabu was selling his injuries as if he had broken his back and never said anything. Joey Styles then interviewed Van Dam who said he didn't respect Sabu, and then shook Bill Alfonso's hand. Paul Heyman came out with Sabu, who talked for the first time mumbling about respecting Van Dam and offered his hand but Van Dam blew him off and shook Alfonso's hand. Sabu ended up going out on a stretcher. The post match came off live a lot messier than it reads. Finale was the typical brawl with Gangstas & Tommy Dreamer over Brian Lee & Eliminators in 20:46. Dreamer broke a cinderblock on Lee's crotch. Richards, who tried to interfere, had Kimona and Beulah rip at his crotch. Dreamer DDT'd Saturn off the top rope through a table. Dreamer bled and everyone who called here said they thought for sure it was a blade and an angle because they had EMT's act as if they were going to stop the match for blood but let it go on, which was the exact same spot they did the previous show. Finish saw New Jack pinned Saturn after coming off the top with a chair on him.

5/17 in Glenolden, PA which will be a video taping has Scorpio vs. Jericho, Saturn vs. New Jack, Kronus vs. Mustafa, Dreamer vs. Lee falls count anywhere, Raven vs. Whipwreck for the title, Sandman vs. Van Dam, Taz vs. Axl Rotten, Pit Bulls vs. Dudleys and Myers vs. Kane.

5/18 in Allentown, PA which may come close to a company record attendance as Eliminators vs. Gangstas for the tag titles, a triangle match for the TV title with Douglas, Dreamer and Sandman, Taz vs. Scorpio, Sabu vs. Whipwreck, Raven vs. Jericho for the title, Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers falls count anywhere and Smith & Guido vs. Dudleys.

The Denver Prime affiliate has said ECW will never air on their station again because of viewer complaints.

The other show of the weekend was 5/10 in Reading, PA before 375. In the top matches, Scorpio pinned New Jack when Eliminators interfered; Jericho pinned Whipwreck; Van Dam pinned Douglas when Scorpio distracted Douglas allowing Van Dam to pin him from behind, Lee pinned Dreamer in a match which went outside the building onto a busy street and cars had to swerve to avoid hitting them. Eliminators interfered again.

The first Sabu-Van Dam match aired on television this past week. I wasn't nearly as blown away by it as most reports. It was a great match for crazy moves, one of the craziest you'll ever see and from that standpoint it was a must-see match. But it only had one element. But there was no psychology, no transitions and tons of missed spots and the match no believability or intensity at all. It was an exhibition of daredevil spots like you'd see indie guys that copy Sabu do with no regard for having a clue how to work a match. Since a lot of

fans watch ECW for crazy spots rather than well worked matches, maybe it shouldn't be knocked because they blew so many spots since they tried so many difficult ones and when you do a match of nothing but crazy spots, they aren't all going to hit perfect unless you're Rey Misterio Jr. working with Juventud Guerrera or Psicosis and having a good night. Every style has different standards. A great lucha match simply looks wrong to fans who aren't educated to the style. American big bumps and overselling look totally contrived to someone who has watched Japanese wrestling. Japanese submissions look like rest holds to American fans who haven't been educated by wrestlers and announcers to their "effectiveness." All pro wrestling is fake so saying a match looked fake, and this match looked as fake in many spots as a bad prelim match with green indie guys, is often stupid. The finish itself was amazing with Sabu running across the ring, leaping from a chair onto the top rope and springboarding backward into a moonsault onto Van Dam for the pin. I'd bet the vast majority of pro wrestlers in WWF or WCW who would see that match would think it was terrible but it does work for its audience. It couldn't hold a candle to previous Sabu vs. Scorpio and Misterio Jr. vs. Guerrera matches at the Arena earlier in the year.

MAY 27, 1996

The debut show in Allentown, PA on 5/18 drew an estimated 1,200 fans which could be the largest crowd outside of New York or Philadelphia in the history of the promotion. There were problems with the building which ordered no brawling outside the ring, no chair or guard rail shots and no going over the barricades. At one point after a chair shot after the Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers match which was the third match on the show, they wanted to shut the show down. The crowd was really into the show early but by the end of the show the crowd reaction was disappointing and a lot of people left before the main event and apparently were unhappy about the triangle match which had no crowd heat. Taz beat Too Cold Scorpio in a matter of seconds with the choke after Shane Douglas distracted Scorpio. Taz said he waited one year to finally get back at Scorpio. Sabu beat Mikey Whipwreck in the best match on the show which got over really strong. They did a TV angle where Raven came out with Stevie Richards, who this week said his name was Stevie Alexander Bagwell and his tag partner Blue Meanie Riggs wearing vets, shades and jumping around like fruitcakes singing the American Males theme song. They also introduced Super Nova as their new flunky and he was jumping around like Leif Cassidy. Raven told Richards to find him a whore as slutty as the women in Allentown. During the angle, Joey Styles told Richards that he's just as cool as the real American Males. The idea is to keep presenting Raven with slutty new valets and he keeps turning them down until they find the right one, which may turn out being Peaches, who is the real life wife of Sandman. They had a three-way dance for the TV title with Douglas, Sandman and Tommy Dreamer. However, Sandman really couldn't work because he legit blew out his knee last week at the ECW Arena show. He came to the ring on crutches and tried to work anyway but Douglas put him in an Indian deathlock. Missy Hyatt tried to throw in the towel but Sandman wouldn't let her. Finally Scorpio came out and superkicked Douglas, Dreamer and accidentally kicked Sandman as well. Scorpio took Sandman's place in the match. Dreamer was eliminated first and finally Douglas pinned Scorpio to keep the title. Main event was the first tag title match with Eliminators vs. Gangstas, which is going to be the main event feud for a while. New Jack and Saturn did wind up brawling in the crowd but it was described as a disappointing match, with New Jack legitimately knocking himself out by missing a leap off the top rope with a chair and having the

chair hit his own head when Saturn moved. They actually had to do some impromptu stuff until New Jack got his bearings back because he was limp and they couldn't get him up to do the total elimination. New Jack's head was busted open hardway when he got cold-cocked by the chair.

On the undercard, Big Titan came out in a total Razor Ramon get-up as Slice & Dice Ramirez with the toothpick and the slicked hair and the Cuban accent. Raven beat Chris Jericho in the ECW title match which was a disappointment as well.

The other weekend show was 5/17 in Glenolden, PA before 250 fans. During the Raven vs. Whipwreck title match, Richards and Meanie did their American Males gimmick and started singing. Then J.T. Smith came out and began singing Sinatra before Whipwreck cleared all three from the ring. In singles matches, Kronus beat Mustafa and New Jack pinned Saturn. The first meeting of Scorpio vs. Jericho was a Japanese style match which I'm told was a good match that didn't get over with the crowd. After the match, Douglas jumped Scorpio and Jericho tried to save Scorpio but Douglas hit him in the mouth with the TV title as Jericho tried to top Douglas. Scorpio made a comeback and had Douglas pinned while Jericho counted to three. Douglas then challenged anyone in the dressing room and Bad Crew came out and he destroyed them. Main event saw Brian Lee beat Dreamer in a falls count anywhere match which went out of the building and into someone's front yard with fans chanting "ECW, ECW" in the street. Bruise Brothers interfered to give Lee the win.

ECW lost its 5 p.m. time slot on Sports Channel Philadelphia effective the first week of June. They'll maintain the other three weekly slots, 11 p.m. Tuesday night, 2 a.m. Friday and 1 a.m. Monday. They've added Ch. 48 in the Philadelphia area for Wednesday night at 10 p.m. and Tuesday at midnight showings.

5/31 in Plymouth Meeting, PA is a Battle Royal. Winner meets Raven that night, and the second to last survivor meets Douglas for the TV title that night. 6/1 at ECW Arena is Eliminators vs. Gangstas for the tag titles, Douglas vs. Scorpio for TV title, Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Bruise Brothers & Lee in a falls count anywhere elimination match.

The latest target date for a first PPV is the fall, perhaps the November to Remember show.

At the last Philadelphia show, the reason the stuff in the post-match with Sabu an Rob Van Dam came off so clumsy is that Sabu was legit knocked silly by a brainbuster off the top rope and was dizzy in the ring and taken to the back, brought back out to say "Respect," and then carried out on a stretcher because he was so dizzy. Since Sabu is in Japan this week, the next Sabu-Van Dam match won't be until 6/22 at the ECW Arena either in an I Quit or stretcher match as that is being groomed to be a blow-out show.

They are apparently setting up an angle to bring New Jack's wife back (she did an angle a few shows back but hasn't been heard from since) and end up in a dance off against Kimona.

Van Dam was over big as a heel in both cities.

Among the weekend injuries with Pit Bull #1 (staph infection in leg), Whipwreck (shoulder), Jericho (eye swollen) and Raven

(foot still hurting). Dreamer took a groin kick which actually landed and he was hurting bad but ended up being okay.

A correction from last week. During the Jericho vs. Whipwreck match at the ECW Arena, the fans weren't chanting "this match sucks" they were chanting "this ref sucks" because Paul Richards' near falls counts were screwing up the match.

There is talk of running a show at Roseland in Manhattan in late June.

JUNE 3, 1996

Complete line-up for 6/1 at ECW Arena is Eliminators vs. Gangstas for ECW tag title, Shane Douglas defends TV title against Too Cold Scorpio, Brian Pillman will do an interview, Sandman vs. Stevie Richards (they are billing that Richards will serve Missy Hyatt with a deposition on the sexual harassment lawsuit at the building that night), Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls vs. Brian Lee & Bruise Brothers, Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck, Devon Storm vs. El Puerto Ricano and more.

ECW starts on broadcast TV in Philadelphia on WGTW Ch. 48, Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. and Tuesdays at midnight.

Paul Heyman has been attempting to find a UFC fighter to come in and put Taz over since he's got Taz doing an ultimate fighter gimmick. One name that was brought up was Paul Varelans since Varelans has interest in doing pro wrestling and will probably wrestle in Dallas shortly.

The plan is to make 6/22 a blow-out show called "Hardcore Heaven '96."

5/31 in Plymouth Meeting, PA has Sandman vs. Taz plus a Battle Royal.

JUNE 10, 1996

Although there were some memorable highlights such as Brian Pillman, prostitute Divine Brown of Hugh Grant fame and UFC's Paul Varelans doing angles, overall the 6/1 ECW Arena show was regarded as a lackluster show highlighted by a strong angle with Varelans vs. Taz. The show started strong but fizzled as it went on, perhaps because of backstage tension when New Jack went off on Pillman in what everyone who saw it swore was unplanned and I'm told was a shoot but it appears almost nobody in the outside world since it involves a Paul Heyman show and Pillman believes anything involving them could be legit. Crowd was estimated at 1,025 with two sets of bleachers no longer there but the building full. During a match with Rob Van Dam vs. Mikey Whipwreck, Pillman, who looked to be about 180 pounds with his face still swollen from the humvee wreck, came out in a wheelchair and challenged Whipwreck, who slapped him in the face. Pillman wound up hitting Whipwreck with his crutch and Van Dam pinned him. After the match, Pillman did a TV interview running down ECW and its fans. I've heard different versions as to what he actually said, one version that he called The Gangstas "Niggers with Attitudes" and the other that he referred to the rap group with the same name and said the Gangstas have done for wrestling what NWA has done for rap music. Either way, New Jack was listening and apparently went nuts backstage in front of nobody but the wrestlers and confronted Pillman and when people tried to explain that Pillman talked about the rap group and he

wasn't calling them racial names, he wouldn't listen. It wound up with about ten minutes of extreme tension backstage, New Jack at one point quitting and getting ready to walk out, telling Mustafa to come with him, Mustafa apologizing to Pillman for what was going on and indicating he wasn't going to walk out with New Jack. Heyman went crazy telling New Jack he's blowing his last chance with the company if he walks out and no-shows the main event. A compromise was then worked out, but this sounds just too weird, where New Jack agreed to come back and work the main event if he could do an interview in front of the fans about Pillman and for some reason Heyman agreed, which turned out to be a mistake because it wound up killing the main event. It sure reads like an angle, though. Back to the real show, J.T. Smith & Little Guido beat Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley and afterwards D-Von destroyed all his brothers with chairs until Big Dick Dudley showed up to a surprisingly big pop. Match itself was terrible, falling apart when D-Von slipped off the middle rope. Stevie Richards came out and said he found a woman slutty enough to be Raven's whore and introduced Divine Brown. The angle was ruined when Brown tried to walk across the ring in exceedingly high heels and kept slipping and was laughing as the angle was going on. Raven said she wasn't slutty enough and hadn't slept with enough people. Rumor has it that Raven will keep turning down women saying they aren't slutty enough but finally wind up with Sandman's wife Peaches as his new whore to set up a feud between the two. Taz then beat Jason Helton of Calgary in what was billed as a shootfight which was short and entertaining, winning via choke. Joey Styles did an interview as Taz challenged anyone to come out. Styles said they had someone there who would accept his challenge and Taz said he's been waiting for Sabu (who was in Japan). Styles said it wasn't Sabu, and Paul Varelans of UFC came to the ring and they did several pull-aparts which got great heat with Taz telling him that UFC sucks. Apparently everyone loved Varelans, who debuts as a pro wrestler for ECW on 6/8 in Reading, PA. They had a six-man elimination bout where the winner would get a shot at Raven's title, with Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer beating Bruise Brothers & Brian Lee. At one point Lee choke slammed Dreamer off the stage onto and through three tables. Pit Bull #2 ended up pinning one of the Bruise Brothers to win in what was said to have been the best match on the show, and was then jumped by Raven, who won a short match and juiced heavy during the match. Paul Heyman then came out and announced Sabu vs. Van Dam on 6/22 and said the next 90 minutes was going to be so wild that if it wasn't, he guarantee Divine Brown would give the fans free blow jobs in the parking lot after the match. Geez, it's bad enough they make their product too sleazy for kids, not they make newsletters too sleazy for kids to read by reporting on it. Richards and Blue Meanie came out as the Blue Meanie Bloods with Richards saying his name was Lord Steven Richards and the other guy was Sir Meanie. Richards served papers on Missy Hyatt. A doctor came out and ordered Sandman not to wrestle calling him by his real name of Jim Fullington. Hyatt then started making out with the doctor who allows Sandman to wrestle. Richards quickly got Sandman in the figure four, but Sandman got out and caned Richards and pinned him in a quick match.

New Jack did an interview asking why ECW brought in guys from WCW like Pillman that were calling him racial names when they were told to leave their racism in Smoky Mountain Wrestling and they said they were told no racism would be tolerated in ECW. New Jack then said this isn't from New Jack, this is from Jerome Young (New Jack's real name, which again sounds like a Heyman angle) and said that Pillman and Tom Zenk were caught in homosexual acts (he was more descriptive) in the showers in WCW and he then started

running down WWF, WCW, Gangstas in Paradise, Ze Gangsta, etc.

Too Cold Scorpio was scheduled to regain the TV title from Shane Douglas, but he had a legit staph infection and couldn't work. This was announced at the beginning of the show and refunds were offered. Douglas demanded a match and proceeded to beat in quick succession, El Puerto Rican, Don E. Allen, Devon Storm and Whipwreck. Several wrestlers came to clean up the ring included Pit Bull #2 and Douglas challenged him calling him Anthony (his real name, this is turning into a pattern) and said he wanted a shoot. Douglas then started calling Francine the biggest whore in ECW and she slapped him. He then gave her a belly to belly suplex and PB #2 hit the ring. It started strong but as they started wrestling on the mat, the crowd got restless with "boring" and "Where's our blow jobs" chants. PB #2 won the TV title in an upset turning an attempt at a Frankensteiner off the top into a super bomb. Eliminators beat Gangstas in a disappointing main event that lacked heat. It was good when they were outside the ring including New Jack power bomb Kronus in a pick-up truck, but it was dead in the ring. The Gangstas in Paradise (Samula & Matthew Anoia, just recently fired by WWF) interfered. Saturn bled from re-opening a bad cut from the previous night. Gangstas in Paradise attacked Gangstas in another dead angle. Heyman blamed the interview the Gangstas did before the match with killing the heat in the main event.

Pit Bull #1 will be out for two months with a torn bicep.

Former boxer Randy "Tex" Cobb was at the show.

The other weekend show was 5/31 in Plymouth Meeting, PA before 325 fans. Scorpio won a Battle Royal to get a shot at Raven's title, which he lost. The rest of the matches were based on order of elimination. Bad Crew #1 faced #2 when Damian Kane interfered so #1 won, then both Crew members went after Kane and Storm made the save. Don Harris pinned Ron Harris in a terrible match or was it the other way around. Ron actually won, then the ref raised Don's hand and he was announced as the winner. In a match against Pit Bull #2, Perry Saturn tried an Asai moonsault but wound up landing head first on the floor and busted himself open really bad. Douglas beat Kronus next with Saturn, all bandaged up, coming out to help. Saturn was bleeding like crazy through the bandages.

Taz beat Sandman. Sandman's knee was in bad shape and he really couldn't work and Tod Gordon told him he wasn't going to let him wrestle. Hyatt then started making out with Gordon and he let him wrestle. Gordon threw in the towel for Sandman when he was being choked out. They are apparently going to do a Sandman & Missy vs. Taz & Bill Alfonso match on 6/21.

Raven juiced like crazy again in his title match with Scorpio.

6/22 at ECW Arena has Sabu vs. Van Dam, Taz vs. Varelans, Dreamer vs. Brian Lee with all weapons legal and Pit Bull #2 defending the TV title against Douglas.

6/8 in Reading, PA has Eliminators defending against Gangstas, Raven vs. Sandman, Pit Bull #2 vs. Douglas, Dreamer vs. Lee falls count anywhere.

A balcony is scheduled to be in the ECW Arena to increase capacity in the fall.

JUNE 24, 1996

Only show of the week was 6/14 in Jim Thorpe, PA. Crowd was way down, ECW having reported it as 385. The Paul Varelans-Jason Helton shoot fights don't look realistic at all. Sandman didn't appear to be able to work (although part of it is an angle where he comes to the ring on crutches and tries to work rather than forfeit the match) and lost quickly to Taz. Taz also choked out the ref and Tod Gordon, and Bill Alfonso choked out Missy Hyatt. Eliminators beat Gangstas in a tag title match which was there best match so far, with much better heat than Philadelphia. Main event saw Raven beat Tommy Dreamer to keep the ECW title. Raven juiced heavy and the match wound up as a bloodbath. They brawled in the parking lot. Bruise Brothers and Brian Lee all interfered and Axl Rotten ended up turning heel at the end by counting the pinfall after the ref was KO'd despite seeing all the interference.

Perry Saturn was shooting a "House of Pain" MTV video this past week.

Upcoming line-ups are 6/21 in Plymouth Meeting, PA with Sabu vs. Shane Douglas, Dreamer & Gangstas vs. Lee & Bruise Brothers, Pit Bull #2 vs. Saturn for TV title, Sandman & Gordon vs. Taz & Alfonso, Chris Jericho vs. Rob Van Dam and more.

6/22 Hardcore Heaven at ECW Arena is Sabu vs. Van Dam, Taz vs. Varelans, Pit Bull #2 vs. Jericho for TV title, Eliminators vs. Bruise Brothers for tag title, Douglas vs. Mikey Whipwreck, Dreamer vs. Lee and The Samoan Gangsta Party (Matthew & Samula Anoia) will work.

6/29 in Middletown, NY has Raven vs. Sandman for the title, Eliminators vs. Gangstas for tag title, Dreamer vs. Lee weapons match, Pit Bull #2 vs. Jericho for TV title and Douglas vs. Whipwreck.

6/30 in Deer Park, NY at the Community Center has Raven vs. Dreamer for the title, Pit Bull #2 vs. Douglas for TV title and Brian Pillman will be at that show.

JULY 1, 1996

Between the sound system going out and the ring and ring cables breaking, it wasn't until about 12:30 a.m. that the Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam main event at the 6/22 ECW Arena event went into the ring. Two minutes into that match, the top rope broke. The two basically ignored it and went through with their scheduled match, with the show ending at about 12:45 a.m. with both Sabu and Van Dam doing stretcher jobs after Sabu had scored the win using the Arabian facebuster, despite the fact the top ropes were broken. In the process, it appeared Sabu re-injured his hand.

Thus ended "Hardcore Heaven '96," one of ECW's best shows (according to most reports, we did also get several negative complaints regarding the show citing it lasted too long and about all the mechanical problems), certainly its longest, and the company's all-time record crowd as well. A crowd reported at in excess of 1,500 jammed the ECW Arena for a five hour long show. The show had more technical down points than ever before, but even more amazing up points.

Besides the ring problems, which Paul Heyman after the show was blaming on Al Poling (911), who runs Ted Petty's ring business, who he claimed gave them a bad ring, blaming it on ECW giving Brian Lee the choke slam finishing move, there was another major in-ring hurdle in regard to the much-hyped Taz vs. Paul Varelans so-called shoot fight.

The match was actually the second most hyped match on the show, stemming from an angle three weeks earlier. The idea was to create the idea that Taz was a world-class shooter by having him beat a proven UFC fighter. However, Varelans refused to do a clean job several days before the show. Since Heyman knew there could be problems in the ring and the match could stink up the joint, he moved it to early in the show. A compromise finish was worked out where Perry Saturn dropkicked Varelans from the top rope allowing Taz to give Varelans a suplex and use the choke finisher in 2:24. After the match Taz turned the heat on the fans who were mad about the poor match and weak finish, saying that he could have beaten Varelans clean but it would have made all the ECW fans happy to see an ECW guy stretch a UFC guy and he didn't want to make the fans happy. There was tremendous heat regarding Varelans in the days leading to the show, including a possibility that he wouldn't show up. He also missed a scheduled session working out the match four days beforehand. The tension got so serious that Heyman was saying that in a true shoot Taz, who has wrestling and judo background, would destroy Varelans easily, because the whole idea of this match was designed to get people to believe Taz was real, like a true shoot has anything to do with any of this. Heyman also stationed numerous heel wrestlers at ringside for the match, both Eliminators, Shane Douglas and Rob Van Dam, presumably in case there were problems in the ring.

Varelans claimed working for ECW was like being involved in the classic con "shell game." He said when they brought him in, they gave him no indication where he or the angle was going. Since he was naive to the workings of pro wrestling, he didn't recognize it initially. He credited several of the ECW wrestlers with smartening him up, telling him where it was going, warning him beforehand and telling him he shouldn't do a clean job. Heyman claimed Varelans knew where they were going from the beginning and claimed to have signed Varelans to a contract with it specifying a choke finish and tap out. Varelans said he wished he had more practice before being thrown in there and that the two worked out once for two hours on the mat, but hardly worked out the match at all, and said he had no problems losing as long as it was a cheat finish but they weren't paying enough for him to do a clean job plus with him scheduled to be in the September UFC tournament, he didn't think it was a smart career move to do a clean job to a pro wrestler even in a worked match. He said Heyman was pressuring him up until the last second to do the clean finish because he told him he felt it was important not to screw the fans and even told him he'd ruin him in the pro wrestling business for three years if he didn't do the clean job. Varelans claimed he's not really interested in doing pro wrestling regularly until he's done with Vale Tudo rules fighting which is several years down the road anyway. Varelans brought up another idea for the finish, which he said Heyman first came up with and he agreed to, which would have been for the Eliminators to hit their total elimination of him before Taz put him out. Varelans said Heyman nixed that idea claiming to him that he was splitting up the Eliminators, while Heyman said it was Varelans who came up with the idea and he wouldn't agree to it. Varelans said Taz was a great guy and that Taz even told him what they were doing to him was wrong, but laughed at the idea of guy "who comes up to my waist" being

able to beat him or be in the league with the top guys he's faced in UFC if it was a shoot.

"I'm not big on going back," said Varelans, who has dabbled with the idea of pro wrestling in Dallas, even though he said he had a good time doing it. "I just wanted to get it out of the way. It wasn't worth it. I don't like being treated like an idiot. If I'd have known what it was all about, I'd have never done it."

Varelans also said Heyman promised him none of the footage of the match would ever air on television, and it would be saved exclusively for home video.

In between came an appearance by Terry Gordy, losing to Raven in an unannounced ECW title match, and a TV title change where Chris Jericho won the title from Pit Bull #2 in what was reported as an outstanding match.

Among the other highlights was an angle where Stevie Richards presented Raven with a new valet, Sandman's real life wife Peaches (in storyline she's his estranged wife). Sandman didn't care, saying he used to pass her around the dressing room anyway and all he cared about was when Raven was done with her, he wanted Raven to pay his bill at the end. However, Sandman's nine-year-old son Tyler came out, dressed like Raven and Raven put Tyler in front of him and dared Sandman to cane his son. This angle was even more difficult than it sounds because the mic broke right in the middle and they had to basically stop the angle but keep things entertaining enough for a long time before continuing on with the planned angle. The angle apparently is that Sandman's son has disowned him and now worships Raven. Tommy Dreamer, after winning a Weapons match from Brian Lee, took one of the most dangerous bumps of the year, being choke slammed off a balcony near the entrance of the building through three tables that were piled on top of each other on the floor. Dreamer took the bump and aside from a few splinters and being a little shaken up, wasn't seriously injured. When the ring broke and they had a lengthy delay after midnight, Kimona Wanaleia was sent out and did a strip tease routine, complete with taking off her top, to keep the crowd from getting restless before the main event. Earlier in the show, Blue Meanie came out as Bluedust, doing a Goldust gimmick, and wound up being DDT'd by Beulah McGillicuddy. Stevie Richards & Meanie, who are such an incredible act I'm shocked nobody has gone after them harder (Al Snow's Leif Cassidy is such a pale imitation) this time also came out as Baron Von Stevie, with Richards with a headcap making him look bald and squeezing his hand doing a claw imitation and goose stepping around the ring and threatening Joey Styles with the claw, and Meanie as Blue Dust with the Meanie Babe as Marlena. Blood is being used again in a big way after a temporary moratorium. There had been blood on most shows of late, which the claim was originally that it was all hardway except it was happening on every house show, often more than once, the past few weeks. Even before the show started, ring announcer Joel Gertner started telling bad jokes and Sandman ran out and caned him to a huge pop, allowing Bob Artese to take over. Oh, and Shane Douglas exposed himself as well.

Complete results saw Douglas beat Mikey Whipwreck (who is staying with ECW) with a belly-to-belly in 11:33; J.T. Smith & Little Guido with Sal Bellomo in their corner beat Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley via DQ when D-Von interfered in a match that went on too long; Taz over Varelans; Raven pinned Gordy with a DDT on a chair after lots of outside interference in a match where Gordy got a huge crowd pop. Raven juiced like

crazy for Gordy. Richards brought in barbed wire but Gordy used it to juice Raven even more; The Eliminators-Gangstas tag title match wound up with both the Bruise Brothers and Samoan Gangsta Party interfering at the very beginning, Axl Rotten & Hack Myers went to a no decision with Samoan Gangsta Party amidst lots of run-ins; Jericho pinned Pit Bull #2 to capture the TV title. Pit Bull #2 bled, although his may have been an accident. Pit Bull #2 accidentally hit Francine, who was being bothered by Douglas at ringside; Dreamer pinned Lee in a weapons match where they collected all the weapons brought by fans before the show and put them in four garbage cans and the wrestlers used all of them, after the match Dreamer took the incredible bump; and Sabu's win over Van Dam finished the show.

The next ECW Arena show will be on 7/13 called Heat Wave '96 with two gimmick matches on top. There will be a four corners match for the TV title with Chris Jericho, Pit Bull #2, Too Cold Scorpio and Shane Douglas. The main event will be a six-man tag with Raven & Stevie Richards & Brian Lee vs. Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer & Sandman. Raven and Sandman will be put inside of a cage. Dreamer and Lee will have a match where falls count anywhere. Gordy and Richards will start out on the stage with the idea that the first man who gets to the cage door will be let in to make it a two-on-one. At that point the door will be locked, but guys can even it up by climbing over the cage into the ring. To make people think they won't do the obvious finish of having Richards get pinned, if Richards is the one pinned, whomever pins him gets Raven's title belt.

The other weekend house show was 6/21 in Plymouth Meeting, PA before 400 fans. The highlight was an excellent match where Jericho was pinned by Rob Van Dam. Van Dam is probably going to face Sabu on 8/3 in a stretcher match since Sabu will be in Japan at the time of the next show. They had a match where Taz & Bill Alfonso beat Tod Gordon & Sandman when Taz choked out Sandman in 3:18. Douglas was awarded the match over Sabu when they stopped it due to injury. Finale was the typical brawl with Lee & Bruise Brothers over Dreamer & Gangstas when they put three cinderblocks on Dreamer's crotch and smashed the chair on them leading to the pin. At one point during the match they were in the parking lot smashing each other into cars.

Paul Heyman said that New Jack working the show a few weeks back for Angel Amoroso (another promoter in Philadelphia who had formerly worked in ECW) wasn't against his wishes, and that he agreed to it when New Jack reimbursed Heyman half his trans from Atlanta.

JULY 8, 1996

Pete Senerca (Taz) was upset with comments made by Paul Varelans both here and elsewhere. He said that from the start, Paul Heyman had told him Varelans had agreed to do the job while Varelans appeared apprehensive about doing it acting like he didn't know what the plans were for him. He said Varelans had told him he thought it would be a slow build-up rather than doing the match three weeks after the angle. He said in the one workout session that had at the ECW school, that Varelans had to be taught how to properly apply a front headlock and Perry Satullo (Saturn), the other coach at the school said that trapfighting (which Varelans is a black belt in) must mean that if you get in a fight, you're trapped. "He doesn't know how to do anything. He's clumsy. Taz could have eaten him up." Senerca said in their match that Varelans left him

several openings to tear him up. "In a straight shoot, he was wide open at all times." Senerca said the fact there were several heels around the ring during the match was because it was ECW vs. UFC and they wanted to show ECW heels as being unified behind him. "I don't need anyone to defend me. I've lost fights before, but that kid can't beat me." Both Senerca, who wrestled for two years at the University of Massachusetts and one year at C.W. Post, and Heyman said that Varelans was offered the opportunity to do a shoot but turned it down. Senerca said it was in a conversation between the two when Varelans was unhappy about doing the job, and he said he'd go to Paul and see if they could both get more money because what they were going to make wasn't enough to do a shoot. He said Varelans said that it was okay. Heyman said it was in a phone conversation that all three were on. Senerca said he can see why the UFC people like Varelans, because he's a big guy with a good look, he's a wild puncher and he can take a good punch, and said that he doesn't want to say that Varelans was afraid of him, only that Varelans said he wasn't here to do a shoot. "I've seen him and he definitely doesn't have a glass jaw."

I wouldn't be this hot if he didn't make the silly comments about me being up to his waist. My size has nothing to do with it. His size is irrelevant. We're all the same size on the mat. He was wide open so many times in the match.

The only reason I'm bitter is because he's crying the blues." My own feeling is that since this is pro wrestling we're talking about, as written last week, who would win in a real shoot has nothing at all to do with it. Pro wrestling is about manipulation, not reality and the idea for Taz to fight a shooter and get a worked submission win was about manipulation, no different than what worked for Antonio Inoki for all those years. It ended up being a bad match and everyone involved seems to be unhappy in hindsight because things didn't go down as they had all hoped for whatever reason.

Sandman's nine-year-old son, Tyler Fullington, was the star of the weekend with house shows on 6/29 in Middletown, NY and 6/30 in Deer Park, NY before an estimated 700 and 400 fans. The first night, Raven defended the title against Sandman. Sandman's knee is still bad and he really can't work so they did the camouflage bit which Raven is really great at. Sandman was caning everyone when Raven pulled Tyler in front of him. Sandman stopped. Later in the match, as Sandman was about to win the title, Tyler caned his father and Raven pinned him. The Middletown show was mainly brawling all over the building and people called here saying it was dangerous to be a fan because the wrestlers were running through them and fans were getting minor injuries because they couldn't get out of the way. Tommy Dreamer and Brian Lee did a spoof on the Sullivan-Benoit deal, except they went into the women's bathroom and there was a woman in there and did more damage to the bathroom. We still haven't had anyone flush anyone's head in the toilet yet, but I'm sure it's coming. In Deer Park, Raven wrestled Dreamer and they did a spoof on the Michaels-Smith double pin finish. When each ref raised a hand, both wrestlers simultaneously DDT'd the other ref. Buh Buh Ray Dudley came in to ref, but D-Von Dudley hit Buh Buh and Dreamer with a chair and one of the refs recovered and counted the pin. After the match, Sandman ran in, but he wound up being caned by his son again.

Sandman's wife, who used to be called Peaches, is now being called by her real name of Lori Fullington. In Deer Park, Eliminators had a Japanese style hot match with Chris Jericho & Mikey Whipwreck.

Told the crowds both nights were really bloodthirsty, even by ECW standards, so even though there wasn't anything that would be called good wrestling except maybe the Eliminators match with Jericho & Whipwreck, the fans came to see the brawling and the blood, both of which were provided.

On this past week's TV, they aired Stevie Richards doing the Baron Von Stevie deal doing a poor goose step and claw. It was so bad it was good. They also aired Raven vs. Terry Gordy. Gordy is nowhere close to what he once was, but they did an excellent job of hiding it, mainly by keeping the match outside the ring and just having Gordy destroy Raven with chair shots. They are trying to do the Jake Roberts comeback deal with Gordy. Actually because Raven did such a great job of camouflaging what Gordy isn't, the fans thought Gordy was the old Gordy and went really nuts for him during the match.

Louie Spicoli debuts on 7/12 in Allentown and will wrestle Sabu at the Arena on 7/13. Afa the Samoan is expected to manage the Samoan Gangsta Party at least in his hometown of Allentown. Samu has just opened a wrestling gym in Pensacola but will continue to work ECW.

Brian Pillman didn't appear at the Deer Park show as was the original plan. He had backed out of it several weeks ago after suffering an ankle infection, which required surgery, which has caused him to be hooked up to an IV the past few weeks which is why he had the big patch on his arm doing the WWF stuff at TV.

7/12 Allentown line-up is falls count anywhere with Gordy & Dreamer vs. Raven & Lee, Jericho defending TV title against Shane Douglas, ECW tag titles with Eliminators vs. Gangstas, Too Cold Scorpio vs. Pit Bull #2, Sandman vs. Bluedust and Tod Gordon vs. Bill Alfonso.

JULY 15, 1996

The 7/5 and 7/6 shows scheduled for Salisbury Beach, MA were both canceled due to a problem with the arena.

Tarzan Goto will be working the weekend shows while Gangstas vs. Samoan Gangsta Party will take place on the 7/13 ECW Arena show.

Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam in a stretcher match will headline the 8/3 ECW Arena show.

Vampiro Canadiense from EMLL is headed in and Paul Heyman is looking at using EMLL wrestlers.

ECW debuts on 7/27 in Warwick, PA with Tommy Dreamer & Terry Gordy vs. Raven & Brian Lee, Sandman vs. Taz, Chris Jericho vs. Shane Douglas for the TV title, Eliminators vs. Dudleys and more.

Sandman's son is turning into another Macauley Culkin in that he's basically stealing the show.

ECW will air on the Univision affiliate in Boston (Ch. 27) at 1 a.m. Fridays, and on Ch. 39 in Burlington, VT in the same slot and is expected to start on Empire Sports cable Sundays at 11 p.m.

JULY 22, 1996

ECW drew the largest crowd in its history once again for its 7/13 show at the ECW Arena in South Philadelphia.

While no real figures are or will be available, the crowd was said to be larger than for the show three weeks earlier which had set what at the time was the company's record. The last crowd was estimated at between 1,200 and 1,550 and at this show there was literally almost no walking space available in the tiny building because fans were so packed in. Getting real crowds for ECW Arena is basically impossible as based on pressure from outside sources, the State Athletic commission won't release figures for ECW shows although when figures were available they were always significantly lower than estimates elsewhere. In some cases figures were so much lower that it was clear those figures couldn't have been accurate as few months ago for a packed house show, we received a figure from the commission that the paid crowd was in the 400's, and it is pretty well known the ECW shows aren't significantly papered. Crowd estimates from various attendees at the 7/13 show ranged from 1,300 to the figure of 1,700 claimed with most estimates in between. The show was said to have been among the best in company history when it came to crowd reactions as every storyline got a huge response and there were standing ovations at the end of several matches.

The highlight match, said to be one of the better matches in company history, was a four-corners match for the ECW TV title with Chris Jericho, Pit Bull #2, Shane Douglas and Too Cold Scorpio. It wound up with Douglas vs. Pit Bull. As Pit Bull had Douglas pinned, Francine turned on Pit Bull, then pulled off her skirt to reveal panties that had "Franchise" written on them. Pit Bull #1 came out and it wound up with Francine being super bombed through a table. After that point, Douglas and Pit Bull traded near falls before Douglas won the title clean with a belly-to-belly suplex in a match that lasted more than 30:00.

The main event on the show was a bout with Sandman and Raven in a cage, Brian Lee and Tommy Dreamer brawling all over the place, and Terry Gordy and Stevie Richards battling over who could get in the cage first to make it a two-on-one. In a bloodbath, it wound up with Raven being handcuffed with his hands spread as if he were being crucified, to repeat the spot from last year that is in the show's openings where Dreamer destroys him with a chair. At this point, Dreamer had a chair and Sandman (who is noticeably bothered by his bad knee, which he seems to blow out doing minor things on a weekly basis because he isn't taking time off to rest it) had his cane but Sandman's son Tyler jumped in front of Raven and spread his arms. Sandman stopped in his tracks, but Dreamer still wanted to swing the chair and Sandman and Dreamer argued over that spot. Later in the match was a spot where three tables were set up on top of each other outside the ring, Dreamer was sitting on the top of the cage and Lee was standing inside the cage on the top rope and basically shoved Dreamer off (it was supposed to be a choke slam but really didn't come off as one) and Dreamer for the second show in a row took the bump through three tables. The match ended with Sandman pinning Raven, which no doubt will lead to title matches down the line.

Among the other show highlights was the return of 911 and the debuts of Tarzan Goto and Louie Spicoli. We don't have complete details as to the behind-the-scenes of the 911 deal, although apparently it was a twofold deal. After 911 had refused to do Paul Heyman's original plan several months ago

to put Taz over as a Giant Killer, which ended with him leaving the promotion, and the Paul Varelans situation backfired, Heyman finally got the deal done. As Joel Gertner was doing a heel ring announcer bit, 911's music played and he came out and choke slammed Gertner. He then choke slammed Taz, who was in the ring with Bill Alfonso as part of the angle. As he went for Alfonso, Taz popped up from 911's trademark spot, suplexed him on his head and choked him out. In post-show interviews, Brian Lee did an interview basically saying that he was the king of the choke slams so it's not clear whether 911 was brought in for the one shot and came in simply to keep the contract supplying the rings for ECW, or if he's back and had to do this angle as a punishment to get his job back.

Goto, from IWA in Japan (which ECW is running two shows in conjunction with on 8/10 and 8/11 in Yokohama and Tokyo respectively), beat Axl Rotten both on 7/12 in Allentown and again at the Arena, largely for Japanese photo ops. Goto is an ECW style brawler, but really didn't get over that big in either city. Spicoli was said to have surprised everyone having a strong match with Sabu, although they were said to have went too long and Sabu appeared to have missed his planned finisher. The highlight of that match was Sabu moonsaulting off the top rope outside the ring and sending Spicoli through a table.

Other notes from the 7/13 ECW Arena. Inside Edition was there filming for an upcoming segment. The opener saw The Gangstas destroyed the Samoan Gangsta Tribe in 2:30. This was basically Heyman having an ECW team destroy a WWF team (even though the latter never actually worked as a team on WWF television other than standing in the aisle). Mikey Whipwreck beat Paul Lauria, and after the match the Eliminators did a run-in and destroyed Mikey and then challenged Sabu. Mikey & Sabu came out for an impromptu tag match which was said to have been very good, ending when they used the Total elimination on Mikey. The Dudleys (Buh Buh Ray & Dances With & Big Dick) beat J.T. Smith & Little Guido & Big Guido (area indie wrestler Primo Carnera III) in a match reported as being totally messed up when Dick pinned Big Guido. The match was basically to set up another Big Dick vs. D-Von confrontation which got great heat.

On 7/12 in Allentown, PA before an estimated 900, main event saw Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer beat Raven & Brian Lee in a brawl all over the building, Eliminators beat Gangstas in a bloody bath among the top matches. Crowd was pretty hot for most of the show. Best match was said to have been a draw with Chris Jericho defending the TV title against Shane Douglas. There were some reported bad matches on the show as well, Sabu vs. Hack Myers and in particular a Bad Crew tag match against Havoc Inc. that was embarrassing.

Only matches we know of for 8/3 at ECW Arena are Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam in a stretcher match, Eliminators, Gangstas, Samoan Gangsta Tribe and Bruise Brothers in a four-corners tag match and perhaps Sandman vs. Raven for the title although that hasn't been confirmed. Talk of people like Vampiro, Dr. Wagner Jr. and Johnny Smith headed in.

On Los Angeles Prime (not sure if this holds true for anywhere else), the show has been moved from 2 a.m. on Friday nights to 3 a.m. on Monday nights.

Exaggeration of the week. The three table bump Dreamer took on the previous show off the elevated section near the balcony was billed on television as a 25 foot drop. If it was, then the

Bruise Brothers, who were setting up the table, are about 23 feet tall each.

JULY 29, 1996

The television situation in New York is expected to change this week. About the only thing definite is that ECW won't be on after a few more weeks in its regular Sunday night time slot on MSG cable, although it will air during the Prime feed.

There was a minor incident backstage at the Arena show involving Taz and 911. After being choked out, the idea was that 911 was going to sell it until they brought out smelling salts to revive him. 911 ended up getting up too soon and Taz had words with him backstage about it and Big Dick Dudley ended up in the middle. At this point there are no plans for 911 to be brought back but he did get a huge pop for his return, so nothing is etched in stone.

They are teasing a split between Perry Saturn and John Kronus since Saturn is making subtle remarks on interviews about "my belts".

New Jack did a television interview calling Jim Cornette a closet racist and the Gangstas claimed Cornette owed them money. Apparently this was a combination of the Gangstas' idea and also Paul Heyman's retribution for three letters Cornette wrote over the years in the Observer knocking ECW and a recent online message where Cornette said something to the effect of that Heyman was someone who would rather climb up a tree and lie than stay on the ground and tell the truth.

Johnny Smith debuts on 8/2 and 8/3.

Upcoming shows are 7/26 in Jim Thorpe, PA with Tommy Dreamer & Terry Gordy vs. Bruise Brothers, Shane Douglas defends TV title against Pit Bull #2, Eliminators defend tag titles against Chris Jericho & Mikey Whipwreck, Raven defends ECW title against Devon Storm and Taz & Bill Alfonso vs. Sandman & Tod Gordon.

7/27 in Warwick, PA has Dreamer & Gordy vs. Raven & Brian Lee, Douglas vs. Jericho for TV strap, Gangstas vs. Bruise Brothers, Sandman vs. Taz and Eliminators defend tag titles against Dudleys.

8/2 in Plymouth Meeting, PA has Sabu vs. Jericho, Dreamer & Gangstas & Pit Bull #2 vs. Douglas & Lee & Eliminators in an elimination match and Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio vs. Raven & Richards.

8/3 at ECW Arena has Raven vs. Sandman, Sabu vs. Van Dam stretcher match and the four corners tag title match with Eliminators, Gangstas, Bruise Brothers and Samoan Gangsta Party.

ECW debuts 8/17 at the Astoria Sports Complex in Queens and runs Deer Park, NY on 8/18.

AUGUST 5, 1996

The final ECW show in the regular Sunday night time slot on MSG cable would have aired on 7/28. The station changed

program directors and the new director canceled the show. ECW will air on about 40% of the MSG affiliates with the Prime broadcast and they were expected to sign a deal on Ch. 31 in New York, which is a business/sports station, for Saturday nights at 1 a.m. which may start as early as this coming weekend.

Sandman has moved back to Philadelphia from Utah, where he had been working a regular job at.

Beulah will replace Kimona on the Japanese tour. Paul Heyman's plan at this point is to air both Raven vs. Tommy Dreamer and Eliminators vs. Takashi Okano & Keisuke Yamada title defenses from 8/11 at Korakuen Hall on the TV show that airs on 8/13.

Gary Albright has been talked with about coming in, but it probably won't be for several more months.

Vampiro's debut will likely be on the 8/24 card. Heyman wanted him on 8/3, but before Heyman confirmed the date with Vampiro, Vampiro got himself booked for that weekend on shows in the Cancun area of Mexico. Originally the idea was to put Vampiro vs. Louie Spicoli on the 8/3 show.

Chris Jericho's last date is 8/3 while the Bruise Brothers will either finish up on 8/3 or 8/24.

Raven missed the weekend shows due to pneumonia, while Pit Bull #2 missed the date in Jim Thorpe because he was arrested and I believe not charged as part of a bar fight the previous night. Actually Raven was at the 7/26 Jim Thorpe show but was so sick he couldn't work so they ran an angle where he challenged Sandman, who came out and all the heels jumped Sandman and that was the extent of his activities. That crowd was up to 500-600, while 7/27 debut in Warwick, PA drew 860 with Taz & Brian Lee beating Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer. Lee used the Asiatic spike on Gordy to leave him laying while Taz choked out Dreamer and Bill Alfonso choked out Beulah. This set up an angle that is to air on this week's television where Dreamer wants to get Terry Funk as his partner for the 8/3 Philadelphia show but Gordy talks him out of it and gives him a partners' name but the name will be kept secret until match time.

8/2 in Plymouth Meeting, PA is Sabu vs. Chris Jericho, elimination match with Dreamer & Pit Bull #2 & Gangstas vs. Shane Douglas & Lee & Eliminators, Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio vs. Raven & Stevie Richards, Rob Van Dam vs. Hack Myers and Johnny Smith vs. Spicoli.

Added to 8/3 at ECW Arena are Scorpio vs. Jericho and Douglas defending TV title against Pit Bull #2 along with the Dreamer & ? vs. Lee & Taz match.

AUGUST 14, 1996

Steve Williams debuted on ECW's 8/3 show at the Arena drawing 1,500 teaming with Tommy Dreamer to lose to Taz & Brian Lee when Lee pinned Dreamer. Sabu over Van Dam, Scorpio over Jericho (in his last ECW match) and Gangstas winning a four-team elimination over Bruise Brothers, Samoan Gangstas and Eliminators to take the tag belts also on show. ECW lost its New York time slot before the first show aired. Apparently Ch. 31 took one look at the tape which was bought as an infomercial rather than regular programming and

decided it would never air anything of that type. It's been said before and it'll be said again, the life blood of wrestling in this country is television. And if ECW persists on having all the blood, the angles where the women get beat up, and the swearing audible from the crowd chants and bleeping in interviews as a constant on the show, they aren't going to take anything but little baby steps when it comes to growth.

Pit Bull #1 (Gary Wolfe) suffered a broken neck and will be out of action for quite some time. They are playing it up as a skull fracture (which it wasn't) and a career ender, which it isn't expected to be but it is very serious.

AUGUST 19, 1996

ECW, in conjunction with the IWA, ran two shows in Japan over the weekend performing before its two largest crowds in history. Overall the tour has to be considered a mixed bag.

The first show, on 8/10 at the Yokohama Bunka Gym drew about 1,800 fans in a 4,900-seat arena. The show was described as poor, with no matches better than two stars and even below the level of the poor 8/1 FMW show in Tokyo. In the matches involving ECW wrestlers, Buh Buh Ray Dudley pinned Katsumi Hirano in 3:37 in a terrible match. It was scheduled as both an NWA & IWA tag title match with Tarzan Goto & Mr. Gannosuke defending against The Eliminators, however Gannosuke has a badly blown out knee and is expected out of action for several months. It switched to a non-title handicap match with Goto taking both on, and wound up with Kronus pinned Goto, who juiced, after a splash onto a desk, in 8:53. The main event had Terry Gordy (who was reported to us as the most over wrestler on the show although Heyman said Raven was the most over) & Tommy Dreamer beat Stevie Richards & Raven in 13:08 when Dreamer pinned Richards. Raven, who really shouldn't be working because of a foot injury, did nothing here as he was attempting to save himself for his title defense the next night. Richards was the only one of the four who did much of anything. Patricia attacked Dreamer during this match but Dreamer punched her. There was little heat for anything on the show and the work quality was said to have been poor. There were said to have been a few pockets of fans into ECW but for the most part it was a dead crowd.

The 8/11 show at Korakuen Hall was the about-face, drawing a sellout crowd of 2,000, with probably close to half the fans in the building wearing ECW t-shirts and being totally into everything including chants of "ECW." It was said to have been a good card with good heat. In comparison with the LLPW show that was held noon that same day and also drew a sellout (headlined by a six-man tag team match with a team captained by Shinobu Kandori against a team captained by Chigusa Nagayo), the work and heat were better for the LLPW show. In the main event, Goto retained his IWA title pinning Dudley in 4:38. Dudley got a good reaction and did a running dive over the top rope which is impressive for someone of his size. Raven kept the ECW title pinning Dreamer in 11:08 when Raven hit Dreamer with a chair after Dreamer had piledriven Patricia. Both juiced, as did Richards, who interfered freely, and brawled all over the building. This match was to have aired on the ECW television show on 8/13.

The Eliminators vs. Keisuke Yamada & Takashi Okano was really strange. According to those there live, it was announced as being an ECW tag team title match, although Eliminators did not have the belts. However, they read a proclamation

announcing it as a title match and the ring announcer billed them as ECW tag team champions. Eliminators, of course, lost the belts on 8/3 in Philadelphia to The Gangstas in a four way dance, but had been scheduled all along to have a title match on this show. The immediate belief regarding the surprise title change (Paul Heyman claimed it was simply the right thing to do that night and it wasn't something he was planning on doing but felt he had to) in Japan was that Heyman didn't want his tag team champs losing to an outside team (since before Gannosuke's injury, they would have had to have lost the NWA/IWA tag title match the night before) so did the title switch because that's Japanese mentality about not wanting a group's champion to lose to outsiders. Heyman claims when he got to Japan he told the office about the title switch and refused to allow them to bill it as an ECW tag title match. Suggestions were made to bill it as an ECW International tag team title match, which Heyman said that he nixed because ECW only has one set of tag champions, and according to Heyman, he claimed it was Eliminators billed at the show as the No. 1 international contenders for the IWA tag team titles. However, in checking again with people there, they claim the proclamation and ring announcement said it was an ECW tag title match and that the fans in the building who follow ECW closely were really surprised because word of the title change the previous week had spread to the hardcore fans. The newspapers the next day all reported it as an ECW tag team title match, although at least one of the magazines, in order to avoid confusion since the magazines print ECW results, reported the match as being for the ECW International tag team titles. The Eliminators were said to have been over the least of the ECW crew and won the match in 14:01 when Saturn pinned Okano in what was actually more of a too long squash match with Eliminators doing some nice moves and selling little. Richards beat Matsuda in 5:38 in what was said to have been an acceptable short match. Richards got over the biggest of all the ECW wrestlers with the crowd since he did the Public Enemy dancing in the crowd which is something rarely done in Japan and the fans really got into it. Richards also worked smart for that audience in that he did the "hot" Japanese moves like an STF and I believe a dragon screw, before winning with the superkick (Steviekick).

Some notes on the 8/3 ECW Arena show. It opened with Stevie Richards, Super Nova, Blue Meanie and Don E. Allen dressed up like the rock band KISS playing "I wanna rock & roll all night" in one of the single greatest skits I've ever seen in my life. Sandman came out and caned all of them, singing "I wanna kick your ass all night, and party every day" as he caned them. Raven, Tyler & Lori Fullington came out and it wound up with Richards superkicking Sandman and Raven hitting him in the eye with the cane. Sandman juiced heavily to set up their match later in the show. Mikey Whipwreck retained the European jr. title (which he won the previous night in Plymouth Meeting, PA from Dirt Bike Kid, who is an indie wrestler in England who made his own belt to work in ECW) beating Devon Storm. Johnny Smith debuted beating Louie Spicoli. Fans didn't know much about Smith but he was a good worker but lacked charisma. Axl Rotten and D-Von Dudley had a match mainly with stiff chair shots going to a no decision until Big Dick chased D-Von away. Raven couldn't wrestle because of his foot injury, so Richards defended the title for him against Sandman. Sandman ended up pinned by Raven when it was all over after lots of outside interference. Lori Fullington attacked Missy Hyatt, who is being de-emphasized. Too Cold Scorpio pinned Chris Jericho with a first-ever ECW shooting star press. After the match, Jericho, in his final match, praised ECW and the fans and got a nice send-off. Pit Bull #1 (Gary Wolfe) came out announcing his broken neck (which is legit) before the Shane Douglas TV title defense against Pit Bull #2.

Wolfe got the broken neck when he landed wrong from a DDT by Douglas at the last show. Brian Lee & Taz beat Steve Williams & Tommy Dreamer when Lee choke slammed Dreamer onto a garbage can. The big spot of the match, which went about 7:00 and wasn't that good, was Dreamer taking a Taz t-bone suplex off the top of the stage onto a table on the bottom level. During the match Bill Alfonso attacked Beulah McGillicuddy who somehow during the melee broke her wrist legit. Gangstas won the four way match to take the belts. Samoan Gangstas came out in handcuffs and were pinned quickly. Bruise Brothers were pinned by Eliminators after one of them got the total elimination. Eliminators went for total elimination on New Jack, but he ducked and Kronus ended up kicking Saturn. New Jack came off the top rope with a chair for the pin. Kronus and Saturn argued after the match. Sabu beat Rob Van Dam in a stretcher match described as very good with a lot of variations on the usual spots.

Referee Paul Richards is talking about booking shows in New England.

Several New York area dates have been canceled after losing television.

It has been reported that Kimona is through here. That may be true and may not be true in that she was done at one point but they may bring her back. She was pulled from the Japan tour and replaced by Beulah.

The 8/18 show in Deer Park, NY was canceled, however the 8/17 show in Staten Island is still on. That show at the Sportsfest has three title bouts with Raven vs. Sandman, Douglas vs. Pit Bull #2 and Gangstas vs. Samoan Gangstas plus Sabu vs. Van Dam, Vampiro (debut) vs. Louie Spicoli, Scorpio vs. Saturn, Whipwreck vs. Kronus and Dreamer & Gordy vs Lee & Richards and the return of the rock band KISS, or a reasonable facsimile.

8/23 in Reading, PA billed as Requiem for a Pit Bull to tribute Gary Wolfe, has Eliminators vs. Dreamer & Gordy, Raven & Lori vs. Missy & Sandman and Gangstas vs. Samoan Gangstas.

ECW Arena on 8/24 is Sandman & Pit Bull #2 vs. Douglas & Raven, Gordy vs. Lee in a Bad street match, Missy vs. Lori and Dreamer vs. Taz.

AUGUST 26, 1996

Biggest news from the lone weekend show on 8/17 in Staten Island, NY which drew 1,033 fans paying \$20,515 were the injuries. Stevie Richards suffered one broken rib and several bruised ribs when Blue Meanie did a moonsault on him and his knee accidentally cracked a rib. Both Missy Hiatt and Lori Fullington had their arms and elbows banged up swinging canes at each other. We don't know the extent of Hiatt's injuries but it was feared she may have suffered a broken elbow, but the elbow was very swollen and she was hospitalized. Fullington's elbow was pretty swollen as well but she wasn't hospitalized.

Raven may have had foot surgery this week.

At the card, Raven beat Sandman with a DDT to keep the ECW title, Too Cold Scorpio pinned Perry Saturn in what was said to have been the best match on the show, Terry Gordy &

Tommy Dreamer beat Richards & Brian Lee, Shane Douglas beat Pit Bull #2 to keep the TV title, The Gangstas beat Samoan Gangstas to keep the tag titles (Sam Anoa missed the card because of a family funeral so Lloyd Anoa subbed under the name L.A. Smooth) and Sabu beat Rob Van Dam on top.

Vampiro's debut, set for this show, was postponed again due to him blowing out his knee.

Reggie Bennett is tentatively slated to debut on the 9/14 show and will almost for sure be booked against a male undercard wrestler.

While this isn't confirmed, there is talk in Japan that Manami Toyota, Mima Shimoda, Etsuko Mita and Toshiyo Yamada are booked for the 12/13 show at the ECW Arena.

The television show this past week was largely taped from Korakuen Hall in Tokyo. While it wasn't the best ECW show ever by a long shot, ECW did a better job getting its company over as an international success on its television in tiny Korakuen Hall than either WWF or WCW have been able to do drawing huge crowds at the Tokyo Dome in the past. The crowd was pretty similar to an ECW Arena crowd, with the funniest thing being them chanting, in English, "He's hardcore" at Tommy Dreamer. The Eliminators were announced in Japanese at ECW tag team champions but didn't have any belts, but obviously it wasn't announced that way in English on television. Their opponents, Takashi Okano & Keisuke Yamada, looked pretty bad. Raven-Dreamer was about what you'd expect with the highlight actually being Richards' interference. Except for the chants the fans learned from either seeing the tapes or magazine coverage, the crowd reactions for the show were typical for a better than average indie card at Korakuen Hall.

There were two different Japanese tours at the Staten Island show (they also were at the Clash in Denver and SummerSlam) and so merchandise sales were way above usual.

8/23 in Reading, PA billed as "Requiem for a Pit Bull" has Van Dam vs. Pit Bull #2, Eliminators vs. Dreamer & Gordy, Raven & Lori Fullington vs. Sandman & Missy and Gangstas vs. Samoan Gangstas for tag titles.

8/24 at ECW Arena is headlined by a Natural Born Killaz match which is a cage match with weapons at the top of the cage with Gangstas vs. Eliminators, Raven & Douglas vs. Pit Bull #2 & Sandman, Gordy vs. Lee in a bad street match, Hiatt vs. Lori Fullington, Taz vs. Dreamer and Big Dick & Buh Buh Ray Dudley vs. D-Von Dudley & Axl Rotten.

There are negotiations, far from finalized, to do shows on 10/11 in New Orleans and 10/12 in Biloxi, MS.

SEPTEMBER 2, 1996

Missy Hiatt, Damien Kane and Lady Alexander are all through with the promotion. Hiatt wasn't technically fired as there is a chance she'll still be involved with promotion of a 1997 wrestling calendar that she was producing with photos of the various ECW women, but she won't be on television, at the arenas or part of the storylines. It was basically a deal where she was blamed for Kimona quitting the promotion as the two

were friends. She was written out of the script at the ECW Arena show when Stevie Richards said he's drop his sexual harassment lawsuit against her if she'd leave Sandman, which she agreed to do, then ran him down, and Sandman proceeded to cane the hell out of her for her exit. Kane and Alexander were then fired because Kane made some sort of remarks about Paul Heyman asking Alexander to take Missy's spot in the match against Lori Fullington, which she did, but I guess it caused more problems. Kane was being used mainly because he promoted the ECW shows in Reading, PA and because it was his license ECW had been using since the split with Ed Zohn over the fire incident last year. However, Heyman has gotten himself a promoters license for Pennsylvania.

The 8/24 ECW Arena show drew another packed house of an estimated 1,400. The main event was a weapons cage match in which masked guys on the top of the cage handed Gangstas and Eliminators weapons to use. It was the expected bloodbath with Perry Saturn being the star of the match coming off the top of the cage several times. At one point one of the masked man hit New Jack with a guitar, which turned out to be Shane Douglas as he unmasked, but New Jack kicked out. Finish saw Saturn on the top of the cage once again, but New Jack threw a garbage can at him and he took a bump off the top of the cage backwards through a table to the floor. This left John Kronus alone and New Jack pinned him after coming off the top rope with a chair on him. The double dog collar match had Sandman & Pit Bull #2 over Raven & Douglas when PB pinned Raven after taking Raven's loaded boot off and hitting him with it, which sets up Raven title defenses upcoming against PB 2 including the 9/14 ECW Arena show. Douglas walked out on Raven at the finish. Tons of blood in this match as well. Taz vs. Tommy Dreamer ended up with no finish as Taz got the choke on, but Beulah ran in, as did Terry Gordy. The Eliminators hit Gordy with Total elimination and Brian Lee put the Asiatic spike on Gordy. Eliminators also destroyed several other underneath guys like Hack Myers, etc. who came in for the save. This was done to set up Eliminators & Lee vs. Dreamer & Gordy & Steve Williams on 9/14. The other major angle saw Doug Furnas debut, but he lost to Rob Van Dam in what was said to have been a very good match. Furnas got over big with the crowd. After the match Furnas clotheslined Van Dam and challenged him to a tag match with Dan Kroffat as his partner, and Van Dam agreed and picked Sabu to be his partner on 9/14. In other bouts, Gordy beat Lee in a Bad Street match, Lori Fullington beat Lady Alexander, Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley beat D-Von Dudley & Axl Rotten (now with black hair in braids doing a gay gimmick very similar to area indie wrestler Twiggy Ramirez) in a match where Buh Buh did some crazy flying moves for a guy his size and where Rotten was said to have done a great job carrying Big Dick, Mikey Whipwreck beat Little Guido to keep the "European jr." title and Louie Spicoli pinned Devon Storm.

The 8/22 show in Reading, PA was said to have been the worst ECW show in months, drawing about 500 fans. It was billed as Requiem for a Pit Bull due to the injury suffered by PB 1, however there was nothing special on the show in that regard. PB 2 no-showed the main event against Van Dam, which they said was because somebody slashed his tires in Philadelphia. Heyman said that he was actually picked up with an outstanding warrant and arrested on the spot at home and that in Reading, nobody had heard from him nor knew where he was or if he would eventually get there, and that he actually only made it to the ECW Arena the next night after being released a few minutes before his scheduled dog collar match. Dreamer, who banged up his ribs badly, subbed, losing to Van Dam. Dreamer still worked the next night. Raven did have

surgery on his foot and took it easy on the last few shows until 8/23 where he had to work hurt.

There are only four shows booked for September, 9/13 in Jim Thorpe, PA, 9/14 at the Arena, 9/20 in Plymouth Meeting, PA and 9/27 in Allentown.

Douglas & Francine have great heel chemistry.

The deal with the Japanese women is that All Japan women is putting together a vacation package where Manami Toyota, Toshiyo Yamada, Etusko Mita and Mima Shimoda will go with fans on a December vacation to New York. They did something like this on a beach vacation last year with Takako Inoue and others, and they like to have them do one wrestling show as part of the package, so they were looking for an area indie to do their tag match and the 12/13 ECW date at the Arena fit into the schedule, so it's not like it's any political deal of working against WWF or WCW, who they were working with last year, although WCW now appears to be working with Gaea and JWP as opposed to AJW and WWF appears to have no interest in womens wrestling.

They did an angle on television building to the Gangstas-Eliminators where New Jack claimed he had a niece who was killed in the projects and blamed himself on not winning the tag titles sooner so they could have money enough money to get her out of there, and said they won the tag titles because they needed the money because the family didn't have enough money to pay for the headstone. They interspersed the interview throughout the show and finished the show with the Eliminators attacking New Jack and leaving him laying saying they didn't care or something to that effect. So now they're working deaths of family members to get sympathy for the babyfaces.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1996

No house shows for two more weeks.

The situation involving Samu was that he had his throat slashed in a restaurant brawl and needed 50 stitches.

APPENDIX: ECW RESULTS

1992

8/12 Philadelphia (Eastern Championship Wrestling):

Super Ninja b Jeff Royal, Tommy Cairo ddq Mr. Sandman, Jimmy Janetty & Gino Caruso b John Rock & Damien Stone, The Hell Riders b Nightbreed (Glen Osborne & Max Thrasher), J.T. Smith & Al Phillips b The Flames (Mr. Perez & Mr. Anthonys), Johnny Hot Body b Larry Winters (Hot Body legit broke his leg during the match but finished the match anyway), Jimmy Snuka b Super Destroyer #1-DQ to retain ECW title, Sal Bellomo vs. Tony Stetson--no result given

9/30 Philadelphia Chestnut Cabaret (ECW - 220): Glenn Osborne and Sandman last two in Battle Royal (to meet later in evening), Super Destroyer #1 DCOR Super Destroyer #2, Max Thrasher b Kodiak Bear, Tony Stetson b The Anchor, Tommy Cairo DDQ J.T. Smith, Mr. X (Rockin Rebel) b Jimmy Janetty-COR, H.D. Rider DDQ E.Z. Rider, Terry Taylor b Larry

Winters, Glenn Osborne b Mr. Sandman to win ECW TV title, Don Muraco b Jimmy Snuka to win ECW title

10/2 Philadelphia Kensington Youth Assn. (ECW - 550): Tommy Cairo b Daimen Stone, Super Destroyers b Samoan Warrior & Super Ninja, Sandman b J.T. Smith, ECW title: Don Muraco b Nikolai Volkoff, King Kahlu & Scott Summers b Jimmy Janetty & Larry Winters, Johnny Hot Body won 15 man Battle Royal, Max Thrasher DDQ Glenn Osborne, Jimmy Snuka b Ivan Koloff, Tony Stetson b Terry Taylor in multi-stipulation match

10/3 Philadelphia Tabor Youth Center (ECW - 375): Ivan Koloff won 20 man Battle Royal, Nikolai Volkoff b Vladimir Markoff, Tony Stetson b Terry Taylor, Rip Sawyer & Dave Casanova (Cream Team) & Glenn Osborne b Max Thrasher & Super Destroyers, Jimmy Janetty & Larry Winters b King Kahlu & Scott Summers, The Hell Riders b Metal Maniac & Rockin Rebel, Tommy Cairo b Ivan Koloff, J.T. Smith & Tigra b Sandman & Peaches, Jimmy Snuka b Don Muraco-DQ (Muraco keeps ECW title)

10/24 Philadelphia (ECW - 225): Rockin Rebel b Cowboy Cody, ECW tag title: Super Destroyers b Cream Team (Rip Sawyer & Dave Casanova), Chain match: Tommy Cairo b Ivan Koloff, Jimmy Janetty & Larry Winters DDQ Chris Michaels & Damian Stone, ECW title: Don Muraco b Jimmy Snuka, Tony Stetson DCOR Johnny Hot Body, Kodiak Bear & Wolfman b Hellriders, Glen Osborne b Max Thrasher-DQ, J.T. Smith & Tigra b Mr. Sandman & Peaches

11/16 Philadelphia (ECW): Wildman Sal Bellomo b Tommy Cairo, Tony Stetson b Jimmy Snuka-DQ, J.T. Smith b Max Thrasher-DQ, Hell Riders b Renesto Benafico & Frank Cody, ECW title: Sandman b Don Muraco to win title, Johnny Hot Body b Glen Osborne-DQ, Rockin Rebel b Metal Maniac, Kodiak Bear & Canadian Wolfman b John Rock & The Anchor

12/19 Morrisville, PA (ECW - 610): Max Thrasher b J.T. Smith, Damien Stone & Chris Michaels b Tony Stetson & Larry Winters-COR, Tommy Cairo b Samoan Warrior, ECW title: Sandman b Rockin Rebel-DQ, Glenn Osborne b Canadian Wolfman, Hell Riders b Super Destroyers-DQ, J.T. Smith won Battle Royal, Davey Boy Smith b Jimmy Snuka

1993

1/23 Philadelphia (WWA/ECW - 670): Ray Odyssey b Chris Evans, ECW vs. WWA tag titles: Super Destroyers b Lords of Darkness (Barry Hardy & Dwayne Gill), Bullrope taped fist match: Johnny Hot Body b Tony Stetson, Davey Boy Smith b Superstar, Kerry Von Erich b Sal Bellomo, ECW vs. WWA title: Sandman DDQ Spider, Texas death I Quit match: Terry Funk b Eddie Gilbert ***3/4

3/12 Radnor, PA (ECW - 250): Johnny Hot Body DDQ Tommy Cairo, Super Destroyers b Hell Riders, Cairo b Sal Bellomo-DQ, Rockin Rebel b Tony Stetson, Jimmy Snuka b Larry Winters, Glenn Osborne b Hot Body, Winters & Stetson b Chris Michaels & Samoan Warrior, The Sandman b Kodiak Bear, Eddie Gilbert b J.T. Smith, Cairo b Super Ninja-DQ, Super Destroyers b Ninja & Canadian Wolfman, Snuka b

Cairo, Osborne b Gilbert-DQ, Rebel b Frank Cody, TV title tourney final: Snuka b Osborne

4/1 Radnor, PA (ECW): Jimmy Snuka & Eddie Gilbert b J.T. Smith & Max Thrasher, Tony Stetson & Larry Winters b Chris Candido & Johnny Hot Body, Don Muraco b Glen Osbourne, Candido & Hot Body b Stetson & Winters, Rockin Rebel DDQ Sandman, Super Destroyer #3 (Sal Bellomo) b A.C. Rotten, Sal Bellomo b Super Destroyer #1, Snuka & Gilbert b Tommy Cairo & Osbourne, Smith b Thrasher, Muraco b Sandman to win ECW title

4/2 Radnor, PA (ECW TV taping - 230): Tony Stetson & Larry Winters b Super Destroyers-DQ, Johnny Hot Body & Chris Candido b J.T. Smith & Tommy Cairo, Don Muraco & Jimmy Snuka b Hell Riders, Sandman b Rockin Rebel (Chuck Williams)-DQ, Eddie Gilbert & Muraco b Glen Obsourne & Smith, Super Destroyers b Stetson & Winters, Sandman b Sal Bellomo-COR, Rebel b ?, Cairo b Hot Body, Max Thrasher b Canadian Wolfman, Stetson & Winters b Super Destroyers to win ECW tag titles, Snuka & Gilbert b Thrasher & Smith, Bellomo b Wolfman, Lumberjack: Hot Body b Cairo, Sandman & Peaches b Rebel & La Tigra-COR

5/14 South Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 325): Handicap: Road Warrior Hawk b Don E. Allen & Samoan Warrior, Tommy Cairo won Battle Royal, ECW tag title: Glen Osborne & Cairo b Johnny Hot Body & Chris Candido(keep belts)-DQ, ECW title: Don Muraco b Sandman(kept belt)-COR, Metal Maniac b Max Thrasher-DQ, Osborne & J.T. Smith b Samoan Warrior & Canadian Wolfman, Hawk b Jimmy Snuka-DQ, ECW tag title: Hot Body & Candido DDQ Super Destroyers, Eddie Gilbert b Herve Benesto, Benesto b Allen, Rockin Rebel b Larry Winters, Osborne b Tony Stetson-DQ, Muraco b Cairo, Smith DDQ Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert), Winters & Sandman b Stetson & Rebel, Hot Body & Candido & Chris Michaels DDQ Super Destroyers & Sal Bellomo

5/15 South Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 300): Terry Funk b Dark Patriot-DQ, Ivan & Vladimir Koloff b Glen Osborne & Herve Benesto, Tony Stetson DDQ Larry Winters, ECW TV title: Tommy Cairo b Jimmy Snuka(keeps belt)-DQ, Sal Bellomo b Chris Michaels, ECW title: Sandman b Johnny Hot Body, Benesto b Max Thrasher-DQ, ECW tag title: Super Destroyers b Michaels & Hot Body to win titles, Non-title: Ivan Koloff b Sandman, Eddie Gilbert & Dark Patriot & Don Muraco b Cairo & Winters & Osborne, Bellomo b Chris Candido-DQ, Funk b Canadian Wolfman, Gilbert & Dark Patriot b J.T. Smith & Osborne, ECW tag title: Hot Body & Michaels b Super Destroyers to win titles, Winters b Rockin Rebel, ECW TV title: Snuka DDQ Funk

6/19 Philadelphia (ECW - 650 sellout): Don E. Allen NC Herve Benesto DUD, Jimmy Snuka b J.T. Smith *3/4, First blood: Tony Stetson b Larry Winters **1/4, Peaches b La Tigra DUD, Snuka b Tommy Cairo *3/4, Street fight: Rockin Rebel (Chuck Williams) b Sandman **, Dick Murdoch b Dark Patriot II *3/4, Super Destroyer #1 (A.J. Fritzoid) & Sal Bellomo & Stevie Wonderful b Johnny Hot Body & Chris Michaels & Hunter Q. Robbins III *3/4, Chain match: Eddie Gilbert b Terry Funk ***3/4.

8/7 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 389 papered): Ivan & Vladimir Koloff DDQ Head Hunters, ECW title: Don Muraco b Metal Maniac, Mr. Sandman & Sal Bellomo b Richard Michaels & Tony Stetson, ECW TV title: Stan Hansen b Jimmy Snuka-DQ, Eddie Gilbert & Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) b Tommy Cairo & J.T. Smith-DQ, Handicap match: Shane Douglas b Herve Benesto & Don E. Allen, Pennsylvania title: Stetson b Cairo, W*ING jr. title: Masayoshi Motegi b Allen, Sandman & Bellomo b Koloffs, ECW tag title: Gilbert & Dark Patriot b Super Destroyers to win titles, Head Hunters DDQ Miguelito Perez & Mr. Danger (Mitsuhiko Matsunaga), Cairo b Damien Stone, Perez & Danger b Benesto & Allen, Super Destroyers & Bellomo DDQ Head Hunters & Freddy Krueger (Doug Gilbert)

8/8 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 300 papered): ECW title: Tito Santana b Don Muraco to win title, Handicap match: Stan Hansen b Don E. Allen & Herve Benesto, J.T. Smith d Masayoshi Motegi, ECW tag title: Eddie Gilbert & Dark Patriot b Mr. Sandman & Sal Bellomo, TV title: Jimmy Snuka b Metal Maniac, Santana & Hansen b Muraco & Shane Douglas-DQ, Pennsylvania title: Tony Stetson b Bellomo-DQ, Super Destroyer #1 (A.J. Fritzoid) b Richard Michaels, W*ING tag title: Head Hunters b Smith & Sandman, Ivan & Vladimir Koloff b Allen & Benesto, Bellomo b The Wolfman, Douglas & Muraco & Snuka b Maniac & Allen & Benesto, ECW title: Santana b Vladimir Koloff, Bellomo & Sandman b Stetson & Michaels, Gilbert & Dark Patriot b Miguelito Perez & Mitsuhiko Matsunaga-DQ

9/18 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,131): Public Enemy (Ted Petty & Johnny Rotten) b Jason Knight & Ian Rotten 1/2*, Pennsylvania title: Tony Stetson b Tommy Cairo *3/4, Mask vs. mask: Super Destroyer #1 b Super Destroyer #2 1/2*, Scaffold match: Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert) b J.T. Smith **1/2, Bunkhouse match: Terry Funk & Stan Hansen b Kevin Sullivan & Abdullah the Butcher-DQ ***1/2, La Tigra won mixed Battle Royal 1/4*, Strap match: Sal Bellomo b Richard Michaels *1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Sandman **1/2, Baseball bat match: Head Hunters b Miguelito Perez & Crash the Terminator ****1/4

10/1 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 250): Axl & Ian Rotten b Chuck Owen & Ty Shol, Rockin Rebel b Don E. Allen, Public Enemy (Ted Petty & Johnny Rotten) b Silver Jet & Gino Caruso, Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond b Axl & Ian Rotten, Sandman b Metal Maniac, Abdullah the Butcher & Terry Funk & J.T. Smith b Don Muraco & Jimmy Snuka & Kevin Sullivan, Sabu b Tazmaniac, ECW tag title: Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson b Tanaka & Diamond, Rebel b Richard Michaels, Sullivan DDQ Abdullah the Butcher, Cage match for ECW TV title: Funk b Snuka to win title

10/2 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 400): ECW tag title: Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson b J.T. Smith & Sandman, Tazmaniac b Tommy Dreamer, Kevin Sullivan b Gino Caruso, ECW title: Shane Douglas b J.T. Smith, Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond b Public Enemy, Richard Michaels b Rockin Rebel-DQ, Axl & Ian Rotten b Don E. Allen & Chad Austin, ECW title: Sabu b Douglas to win title, Jimmy Snuka b Austin, Cage match: Kevin Sullivan b Abdullah the Butcher, Cage match: Public Enemy won three-team elimination of Tanaka & Diamond and Rottens

10/16 North East, MD (ECW - 250): Tommy Cairo b Mr. X (Larry Winters), Jason Knight b Canadian Wolfman, J.T. Smith

b Super Destroyer #2, Sandman b Rockin Rebel, Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body b Ian & Axl Rotten, Jimmy Snuka b Nikolai Volkoff, Shane Douglas b Flyboy Rocko Rock (Ted Petty), Smith won Battle Royal to become ECW Maryland champion

10/22 Morrisville, PA (ECW): Super Destroyer #1 b Max Thrasher, Don E. Allen & Mr. X (Larry Winters) b Hell Riders, Sandman b Chris Michaels, Mr. Hughes b Johnny Gunn, Jimmy Snuka b Warlord, Wolfman b H.D Rider, Warlord won Battle Royal

11/12 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 151): Chris Michaels b Keith Scherer, Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson b J.T Smith & Sandman, Sabu b Tazmaniac, Rock Public Enemy (Rocko Rock aka Ted Petty & Johnny Grunge aka Johnny Rotten) b Axl & Ian Rotten, Sandman & Smith & Peaches b Stetson & Hot Body & Hunter Q. Robbins, Tommy Cairo b Michaels, Mr. Hughes b Scherer, Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond b Hughes & Don E. Allen, Diamond b Rocko Rock, Axl & Ian Rotten b Stetson & Hot Body, Sullivan b Scherer

11/13 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,492 sellout): Mr. Hughes b Johnny Gunn, Tazmaniac b Tommy Dreamer, ECW tag title: Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson b Axl & Ian Rotten, ECW tag title: Dreamer & Gunn b Hot Body & Stetson to win titles, Kevin Sullivan b Tommy Cairo, Malia Hosaka b Sherri Martel-DQ, Sandman d Jim Neidhart, Hood match: Public Enemy b Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond, Chair match: Sal Bellomo b Rockin Rebel, Road Warrior Hawk & Sabu b Terry Funk & King Kong Bundy (Sabu wins Funk's ECW TV title in process)

12/4 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 400): J.T. Smith b Johnny Hot Body, Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac b Ian & Axel Rotten, Mr. Hughes b Mike Norman, Lumberjack b Don E. Allen, ECW tag title: Sullivan & Tazmaniac b Shane Douglas & Tommy Dreamer to win belts, Sandman b Tony Stetson, Hughes NC Chad Austin, Douglas b Dreamer-DQ, Norman & Mike V b Sullivan & Tazmaniac-DQ, Lumberjack b Mr. X (Larry Winters), Rottens & Terry Funk NC Smith & Sandman & Sal Bellomo

12/26 Philadelphia (ECW - 800 sellout): Chad Austin b Pit Bull Spike, Mike Awesome (The Gladiator in FMW) b Randy Star, ECW tag title: Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac b J.T. Smith & Tommy Cairo, Shane Douglas b Tommy Dreamer, Mr. Hughes b Sandman, Rockin Rebel b Don E. Allen, ECW title: Terry Funk b Sabu to win title, Pat Tanaka b Rocco Rock (Ted Petty), Lights Out Battle Royal ended with no decision

1994

2/5 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,300 sellout): 911 b Chad Austin DUD, Mr. Hughes b Sal Bellomo DUD, Dog collar match: Sandman & Tommy Cairo b Pit Bull Spike & Rockin Rebel ***, Falls count anywhere: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers ****1/4, Jimmy Snuka b Tommy Dreamer *3/4, The Sheik & Pat Tanaka b Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac ***1/4, J.T. Smith b Mike Awesome **1/4, Triangular match: Terry Funk and Sabu and Shane Douglas went to 60:00 time limit with no falls taken ****1/2

3/5 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,400 sellout): 911 b Paul Laurie & Mikey Watson DUD, Pat Tanaka & J.T. Smith b Rockin rebel & Pit Bull **1/2, Tommy Dreamer b Jimmy Snuka *3/4, Falls count anywhere: Bruise Brothers b Public Enemy ***1/2, Road Warrior Hawk b Mr. Hughes *, ECW TV title: Sabu b Mike Awesome ***1/4, ECW tag title: Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac b Bruise Brothers-DQ **, Sandman b Chad Austin DUD, Taped fist match for ECW title: Terry Funk b Shane Douglas ****

3/6 Philadelphia (ECW TV tapings): Bad Breed b Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson, Bruise Brothers b Hack Myers & Bob Starr, 911 b Eric Anderson, ECW tag title no DQ: Public Enemy b Kevin Sullivan & Tazmaniac to win titles, Road Warrior Hawk b Pit Bull, 911 b Damien Stone, Mr. Hughes b Billy Fire Hawk, Ray Odyssey b Anderson, Chad Austin b Fire Hawk, Judge Dredd b Devon Storm, Sandman b Sal Bellomo, Terry Funk & Kevin Sullivan & Crash the Terminator (Bill DeMott) b Shane Douglas & Public Enemy, ECW TV title: Tazmaniac b Sabu to win title, Sandman & Jimmy Snuka b Tommy Dreamer & Tommy Cairo, Douglas b Pat Tanaka, Pit Bull & Rockin Rebel b Young Dragons, Bruise Brothers b Devon Storm & Stone, ECW TV title: J.T. Smith b Tazmaniac to win title

3/26 Valley Forge, PA (ECW - 700): Crash the Terminator b Pit Bull *, 911 b Don E. Allen & Blue Mask (Chad Austin) & Hack Myers DUD, ECW TV title: J.T. Smith b Rockin Rebel **, Bruise Brothers b Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond **, Tommy Cairo b Sandman **1/2, Cage match: Jimmy Snuka b Tommy Dreamer DUD, Cage match war games rules, numerous stipulations: Shane Douglas & Public Enemy & Mr. Hughes b Road Warrior Hawk & Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac & Terry Funk 22:20 (Douglas pinned Funk to win match and by virtue of stipulations won ECW title) ***1/2

3/26 Dover, DE (ECW - 430): Chad Austin & Tommy Dreamer & Tommy Cairo b Pit Bull & Sandman & Rockin Rebel, Billy Buster b Hack Myers, Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac b Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond, 911 b Mike Norman & Mikey Wiprecht, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers, Road Warrior Hawk b Mr. Hughes, ECW title: Terry Funk b Shane Douglas-DQ, Hawk won Battle Royal

3/27 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 350/all freebies): Non-squash results: Public Enemy b Crash the Terminator & Tommy Cairo, Tommy Dreamer b Sandman, Pat Tanaka & Paul Diamond b Pit Bull & Rockin Rebel, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Diamond, Sandman b Ray Odyssey

4/16 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,050/890 paid): 911 b Crash the Terminator *, Kevin Sullivan & Tasmaniac b Jimmy Snuka & A.J. Power **1/4, ECW TV title: Pit Bull b J.T. Smith to win title 1/2*, Tommy Cairo b Sandman ***3/4, ECW title: Road Warrior Hawk b Shane Douglas-DQ *3/4, Lumberjack match for ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers ***, Sabu b Terry Funk ****1/4

5/13 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping): Chad Austin b Keith Scherer, J.T. Smith b Hack Myers, Steve Collins b Sandman-DQ, ECW TV title: Mikey Wiprecht b Pit Bull to win title, Shane Douglas b Austin, Taz-manic b Scherer, Bruise Brothers b Stan Parsons & Billy Firehall, Terry Funk b Myers, Kevin Sullivan b Scherer, Pit Bull b Damien Stone, ECW TV title: Wiprecht b Sullivan-DQ, Douglas & Mr. Hughes & Public Enemy b Smith & Bruise Brothers & Tommy Dreamer, Tommy Cairo b Rockin Rebel, Crash the Terminator b Joe Power,

ECW TV title: Whiprech b Hughes-DQ, Taz-maniac b Sandman, Sal Bellomo b Don E. Allen, ECW TV title: Whiprech b Johnny Grunge-DQ

6/3 Montgomeryville, PA (ECW - 250): Chad Austin b Hack Myers, 911 b Joel Hartgood & Delirious Dino, Pit Bull b Don E. Allen, Falls count anywhere: Tommy Cairo b Sandman, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b J.T. Smith & Tommy Dreamer, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Rockin Rebel-DQ, Sabu b Too Cold Scorpio

6/24 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,390): Tommy Dreamer b Hack Myers, Don E. Allen NC Chad Austin, Bruise Brothers b Shane Douglas & Mr. Hughes *1/2, Dog collar match: Tazmaniac b Pit Bull *, Cane on a pole: Tommy Cairo b Sandman-DQ *, ECW tag title: Dory & Terry Funk NC Public Enemy ****, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Rockin Rebel-DQ **, Sabu b Cactus Jack ***1/2

6/25 Yonkers, NY (ECW - 325): Street fight: Bodyguard for Hire b Damien Stone, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b 911-DQ, Singapore caning match: Tommy Cairo b Sandman, Tazmaniac b Pit Bull, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers, ECW title: Tommy Dreamer b Shane Douglas-DQ, Sabu b Terry Funk ***3/4

6/26 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 400): Cage match: Shane Douglas & Mr. Hughes b Bruise Brothers, Axl & Ian Rotten b Don E. Allen & Joel Hartgood, J.T. Smith b Dino Sanoff, Public Enemy b Phi Delta Slam, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Pit Bull #2-DQ, Dory & Terry Funk b Steve Richards & Hack Myers, Sabu b Chad Austin, ECW title: Tommy Dreamer b Shane Douglas-DQ, Bruise Brothers b Hartgood & Sanoff, Bad Breed b Spiders, ECW TV title: Whippreck b Sandman-DQ, Rockin Rebel b Austin, Funks & Dreamer b Public Enemy & Myers, Pit Bulls b Phi Delta Slam, Tazmaniac b Jimmy Snuka

7/8 Montgomeryville, PA (ECW - 175): Rockin Rebel b Steve Richards, Handicap match: Tazmaniac b Dino Sanna & Joel Hartgood, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Mikey Whippreck & Jim Lano, Sabu b Mr. Hughes ***1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tommy Dreamer ***1/4

7/15 Philadelphia (ECW TV taping - 147): Ian Rotten b Hack Myers, Ray Odyssey b Steve Richards, Chad Austin b Damien Stone, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Sandman-DQ, Terry Funk b Keith Scherer, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tommy Dreamer, Tazmaniac b Myers, Dory & Terry Funk & Dreamer b Pit Bulls & Jimmy Snuka, Austin b Richards, Sabu b Odyssey, Pit Bulls DDQ Snuka & Tazmaniac, Public Enemy b Richards & Stone, Jason b Scherer, Rottens b Joel Hartgood & Dave Sendoff

7/16 Philadelphia (ECW - 850): Axl & Ian Rotten b Rockin Rebel & Hack Myers *, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Chad Austin-DQ **, Tommy Dreamer b Steve Richards *1/2, Mr. Hughes b Dreamer *1/4, Tazmaniac & Sabu b Pit Bulls **, Double cane match: The Sandman b Tommy Cairo ***, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Sabu-COR ****1/4, No rope barbed wire match: Public Enemy b Dory & Terry Funk ****

7/17 Wildwood, NJ (ECW - 200): Jimmy Snuka won Battle Royal, Rockin Rebel b Hack Myers, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Chad Austin-DQ, Tommy Cairo b Sandman, Tazmaniac b Pit Bull #1, Sabu b Ray Ides, Mr. Hughes b

Tommy Dreamer, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Axl & Ian Rotten, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Snuka

7/22 Montgomeryville, PA (ECW - 350): Tommy Dreamer b Pit Bull #1, Mr. Hughes b Tommy Cairo, Tazmaniac b Pit Bull #2, ECW TV title: Mikey Whippreck b Steve Richards-DQ, Sandman b Ray Odyssey, ECW tag title: Public Enemy & Axl & Ian Rotten, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tazmaniac

8/13 Philadelphia (ECW - 975 sellout): Hack Myers b Rockin Rebel *1/4, Chad Austin b Tommy Cairo 3/4*, ECW TV title: Jason b Mikey Whippreck **, Tazmaniac & Jimmy Snuka b Pit Bulls *, 911 b Mr. Hughes 1/4*, Singapore cane match: The Sandman b Tommy Dreamer-DQ DUD, Baseball bat match for ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Axl & Ian Rotten ***3/4, Sabu b Too Cold Scorpio ****1/4, Terry Funk NC Cactus Jack ***

8/28 Philadelphia (ECW TV tapings - 350/all freebies): J.T. Smith b Steve Richards, Tazmaniac b Ray Odyssey, Chris Benoit b Chad Austin, Cane match: Sandman b Tommy Dreamer, ECW TV title: Jason b Smith, Too Cold Scorpio b Stormin Norman, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Osamu Nishimura, Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck b Dino Sandoff & Chris Canyon-DQ, ECW TV title: Jason b Rockin Rebel, Benoit b Nishimura, Sandman b Hack Myers, ECW TV title: Jason b Sandoff, ECW title: Douglas b Richards, Public Enemy b Myers & Norman, Austin b Rebel, Canyon NC Paul Loria, Public Enemy & Douglas & Matt Borne b Jack & Whippreck & Benoit & Scorpio

9/20 Concord Township, PA (ECW - 125): ECW TV title: Jason b Rockin Rebel, J.T. Smith b Sandman, Angel NC Penny Pulsations, Axl & Ian Rotten b Public Enemy

9/23 Tampa (ECW - 338): Dean Malenko b Osamu Nishimura, Tazmaniac won Battle Royal, Ian Rotten & Hack Myers b Phi Delta Slam, Dory Funk b Dean Malenko, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tazmaniac, 911 b Mr. Hughes, Sabu b Ron Simmons, Falls count anywhere: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers

9/24 Ocala, FL (ECW - 600): Tazmaniac won Battle Royal, Tommy Dreamer b Sandman, Phi Delta Slam b Ian Rotten & Hack Myers, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tazmaniac, Dory Funk b Mr. Hughes, Sabu b Ron Simmons, Falls count anywhere: Public Enemy b Bruise Brothers

9/30 Hamburg, PA (ECW TV taping - 420): ECW TV title: Jason b Mikey Whippreck, Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff NC Steve Richards & Chris Canyon, J.T. Smith b Sandman, Too Cold Scorpio b Hack Myers, Public Enemy b Sandoff & Allen, Tazmaniac b Richards, Chris Benoit b Ray Odyssey, Tommy Dreamer b Tony Stetson, Ian & Axl Rotten b Canyon & Richards, Benoit d Tazmaniac, Public Enemy b Stetson & Rockin Rich, Scorpio b Borne Again-DQ, Pit Bulls b Canyon & Myers, Baseball bat match: Public Enemy b Ian & Axl Rotten, 911 b Mr. Hughes, Sabu b Cactus Jack

10/1 Philadelphia (ECW - 850 sellout): Borne Again (Matt Osborne) b Ray Odyssey *, Ian & Axl Rotten b Pit Bulls *1/4, Steve Richards NC Rockin Rebel **, ECW TV title: Jason b Hack Myers *, Handicap: Dean Malenko b Dino Sandoff & Don E. Allen **1/4, I Quit match: Tommy Dreamer b Sandman **3/4, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Too Cold Scorpio ***1/2, Chris Benoit b Sabu ***1/2, ECW tag title: Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck b Public Enemy ****

10/4 Concord Township, PA (ECW): J.T. Smith b Tony Stetson, Tazmaniac b Don E. Allen, Tommy Dreamer b Steve Richards, ECW TV title: Jason b Mikey Whippreck, Public Enemy b Axl & Ian Rotten, Cactus Jack b Mr. Hughes

10/15 Harrisburg, PA (ECW - 200): Handicap match: 911 b Dino Sandoff & Steve Richards DUD, Pit Bulls b Axl & Ian Rotten **, ECW TV title: Jason b Hack Myers *1/2, Ron Simmons b Mr. Hughes *3/4, Sabu b J.T. Smith ***1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tazmaniac **, ECW tag title falls count anywhere: Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck b Public Enemy ***1/4

10/22 Concord Township, PA (ECW - 175): J.T. Smith b Don E. Allen, Tommy Dreamer b Hack Myers, Tazmaniac b Steve Richards, Public Enemy b Pit Bulls, Mikey Whippreck b Tommy Cairo-DQ, Sabu & 911 b Mr. Hughes & Shane Douglas

11/4 Hamburg, PA (ECW TV taping - 355): Pit Bulls b Axl & Ian Rotten, J.T. Smith b Tony Stetson, Chris Benoit b Steve Richards, Public Enemy b Pit Bulls, Too Cold Scorpio & Ron Simmons b Pit Bulls, Jim Powers b Ray Odyssey, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Jason to win title, Ron Simmons b Dino Sandoff, Public Enemy NC 911 & Hack Myers, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko b Scorpio to win title, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Powers, Tommy Dreamer b Dan Harris, Tazmaniac & 911 & Sabu b Pit Bulls & Malenko, Mr. Hughes b Chris Canyon, Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck b Jason & Malenko, Simmons & Scorpio & Benoit b Hughes & Douglas & Myers, Falls count anywhere: Cactus Jack b Sabu

11/5 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,050 sellout): J.T. Smith b Hack Myers **, Pit Bulls b Axl & Ian Rotten ***1/2, Too Cold Scorpio b Mr. Hughes **1/2, Tommy Dreamer b Tommy Cairo ***3/4, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Ron Simmons ***1/4, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko b Tazmaniac, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck to win titles ***1/4, Sabu NC Chris Benoit

11/18 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 175): Mikey Whippreck b Steve Richards, 911 b Hack Meyers & Dino Sandoff, Tommy Dreamer b Tommy Cairo, Kevin Sullivan NC Tazmaniac, Sabu b Cactus Jack, ECW tag title: Public Enemy NC Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio

11/19 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,100 sellout): Steve Richards & J.T. Smith b Chad Austin & Hack Meyers *, Dog collar match: Pit Bulls b Bad Breed ***1/4, Tommy Dreamer b Sandman **, Sabu & Tazmaniac b Joe & Dean Malenko ***1/2, ECW tag title: Public Enemy NC Cactus Jack & Kevin Sullivan ****, Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio b Shane Douglas & Brian Pillman ***1/4

12/3 Norristown, PA (ECW - 200): J.T. Smith b Steve Richards, Jason b Hack Meyers, Mikey Whippreck won Battle Royal to get an ECW title shot, Tommy Dreamer b Tommy Cairo, Dreamer b Sandman, Dean Malenko b Tazmaniac-DQ, 911 b Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Whippreck, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Axl & Ian Rotten

12/10 Bristol, PA (ECW - 358): Pit Bulls b Steve Richards & J.T. Smith, 911 b Young Dragons, Tommy Dreamer & Peaches b Tommy Cairo & Angel, Sandman & Woman NC Dreamer & Peaches, Tazmaniac b Al Snow, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Hack Meyers, Falls count anywhere for ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck

12/16 Hamburg, PA (ECW TV taping - 255): Pit Bulls b Axl & Ian Rotten *3/4, Tommy Dreamer b Chad Austin DUD, Steve Richards b Dan Harris DUD, Ron Simmons won Extreme Warfare (Royal Rumble rules) Battle Royal 33:38, Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck & Dreamer b Sandman & Tommy Cairo & Richards **, Tazmaniac b Chaos DUD, Public Enemy b J.T. Smith & Hack Myers *, Dreamer b Richards, Pit Bulls b Harris & Chaos, Dreamer & ? (not Peaches) b Cairo & Angel DUD, ECW title: Dreamer b Shane Douglas-DQ *

12/17 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 800): Steve Richards b J.T. Smith **1/2, Dean Malenko b Ray Odyssey *1/2, Chris Benoit b Hack Myers ***3/4, Handicap match: 911 b Pit Bulls, Mikey Whippreck b Don E. Allen *, Cactus Jack & Tommy Dreamer b Tommy Cairo & Sandman ****1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Ron Simmons **, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Sabu & Tazmaniac ****

1995

1/7 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,000 sellout): Steve Richards b Hack Myers **1/4, Al Snow b Osamu Nishimura ***3/4, Too Cold Scorpio b Sandman **1/2, Paul Loria b Mikey Whippreck ***1/4, Losing team must split up: Pit Bulls b Axl & Ian Rotten ***1/2, J.T. Smith b Chad Austin DUD, ECW title: Shane Douglas d Tully Blanchard 43:00 1/4*, 3 on 4: 911 & Sabu & Tazmaniac b Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko & Public Enemy ***1/2

1/14 Davie, FL (ECW - 300): Joe Malenko d Steve Richards *1/4, Kendall Windham b Hack Meyers *1/2, Mikey Whippreck b Jason *1/2, Tazmaniac b Dean Malenko-DQ **1/4, Falls count anywhere: Cactus Jack b Sandman ****1/2, Chris Benoit b Too Cold Scorpio ***1/2, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Mr. President (Joe DiFuria) & Death Row 3260 ***1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Ron Simmons **

1/16 Orlando (ECW - 300): Joe Malenko d Osamu Nishimura DUD, Hack Meyers b Steve Richards *, Mikey Whippreck b Jason **, Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio b Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko **1/2, Kendall Windham b Prey of the Dead (Mike Bollea aka Horace Boulder) 1/2*, Cactus Jack b Sandman ***3/4, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Sabu & Tazmaniac ****

2/3 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 400): 911 b Young Dragons DUD, Steve Richards b Dino Sandoff *1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Mikey Whippreck **, Chris Benoit NC Tazmaniac ***1/2, Tommy Dreamer b Sandman **, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b J.T. Smith & Hack Meyers ***1/2, Sabu b Al Snow ****

2/24 Kennett Square, PA (ECW - 225): Jason b Hack Meyers 3/4*, Tommy Dreamer b Steve Richards *1/4, Tazmaniac b Chad Austin *3/4, Ian Rotten b Axl Rotten **1/4, Sabu b Too Cold Scorpio ***1/4, Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko b Cactus Jack & Mikey Whippreck ***1/2, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Hector Guerrero ***1/4

2/25 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Pit Bulls b Joel Hartgood & Chad Austin 1/2*, Jason & Paul Lauria b Mikey Whippreck & Hack Meyers *1/4, Too Cold Scorpio b Hector Guerrero ***3/4, Barbed wire baseball bat match: Ian Rotten b Axl Rotten ****, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Marty Janetty ***3/4, ECW tag title: Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko b Sabu & Tazmaniac to win titles ***1/2, Cactus Jack b D.C. Drake ***1/4

3/3 Philadelphia (ECW - 292): Tommy Dreamer b Steve Richards, Handicap match: Dino Sandoff & Don E. Allen b Tazmaniac-DQ, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko d Too Cold Scorpio, Sandman b J.T. Smith, Sabu b Osamu Nishimura, Public Enemy b Hack Myers & Mikey Whipwreck, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tully Blanchard

3/17 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 374): Raven b Hack Myers, 911 b Tony Stetson & Johnny Hot Body, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko b Tazmaniac, Falls count anywhere: Cactus Jack b Sandman, Public Enemy b Ron Simmons & Too Cold Scorpio, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Tommy Dreamer

3/18 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,100 sellout): Mikey Whipwreck b Jason **, Ron Simmons b Hack Myers *, Tommy Dreamer b Tony Stetson, Dreamer b Johnny Hot Body, Dreamer b Steve Richards, Raven b Dreamer, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Dean Malenko to win title **3/4, Strap match: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten ****, Sabu b Whipwreck ****1/4, Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***3/4, Terry Funk & Sandman b Shane Douglas & Cactus Jack ****1/2

4/8 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,200 sellout): Pit Bulls b Johnny Hot Body & Tony Stetson *, Raven b Tommy Dreamer ****, Mikey Whipwreck b Ron Simmons-DQ *, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero b Too Cold Scorpio to win title ****, Hair vs. hair: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten **1/2, Hack Myers b Dino Sandoff DUD, ECW title: Shane Douglas b Sandman *1/2, Three Way Dance for ECW tag titles: Public Enemy over Dean Malenko & Chris Benoit and Rick Steiner & Tazmaniac to win titles ***1/2

4/14 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 350): Tazmaniac b Steve Richards **, Dean Malenko b Mikey Whipwreck-DQ **, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ****, Strap match: Ian Rotten b Axl Rotten ***1/2, Tommy Dreamer b Raven **1/4, Shane Douglas & Cactus Jack b Ron Simmons & Sandman ***

4/15 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,000 sellout): Mikey Whipwreck b Steve Richards **, Tsubo Genjin b Tony Stetson *, ECW death match: Ian Rotten b Axl Rotten ***1/4, Raven b Tommy Dreamer-DQ ***, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero d Dean Malenko 25:57 ****3/4, ECW title: Sandman b Shane Douglas to win title *3/4, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ****, 911 b Ron Simmons *1/2, Cactus Jack b Terry Funk ****

4/19 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 350): Pit Bulls b Bad Crew, Brian Lee NC Axl Rotten, Little Guido (Damien Stone) b Hack Myers, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio d Sabu, Shane Douglas & Sandman b Billy Black & Rob Van Dam, ECW title lumberjack match: Raven b Tommy Dreamer

4/20 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,075 sellout): Super Nova NC El Puerto Rican DUD, Mikey Whipwreck b Billy Black **1/2, Pit Bulls NC Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-von Dudley *1/2, Taz b Devon Storm-COR **, Axl Rotten b Little Guido *3/4, Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio b Bruise Brothers ***, Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer **1/2, Sabu b Rob Van Dam ****1/4, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas ***

4/29 Dover, DE (ECW - 375): Hack Myers & Mikey Whipwreck b Steve Richards & Raven *, Marty Jannetty b Shane Douglas *1/2, Ron Simmons b Jim Neidhart *3/4, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero DCOR Dean Malenko ****1/4, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/2, Barbed wire baseball bat match: Axl

Rotten b Ian Rotten ***1/4, Sandman NC Tommy Dreamer ***1/2, Cactus Jack b Terry Funk ***1/4

5/5 Fort Lauderdale, FL (ECW - 1,200): Joe Malenko b Alex G *, Tazmaniac b Evil Snak DUD, Barbed wire baseball bat match: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten *, Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko b Mikey Whipwreck & Norman Smiley **, Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***3/4, Death Row 3260 b Phi Delta Slam D-Day DUD, ECW title: Sandman b Cactus Jack ***1/2, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/2

5/6 Tampa (ECW - 735): Joe Malenko b Miguel San Juan DUD, Death Row 3260 & Steve Richards b Phi Delta Slam *3/4, Tazmaniac b Evil Snak 1/2*, Ron Simmons b Marty Jannetty *, Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko b Norman Smiley & Mikey Whipwreck **1/4, Bad breed death match (all weapons legal): Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten ***3/4, Raven b Tommy Dreamer ****, ECW title/Shane Douglas ref: Sandman b Cactus Jack-DQ ***1/4, Double dog collar match for ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ****1/4

5/13 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 875 sellout): Hack Myers b Tony Stetson 3/4*, Tazmaniac & 911 b Tsubo Genjin & Hiroyoshi Iekuda *1/4, Barbed wire baseball bat and barbed wire chair match: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten ***1/2, Raven & Steve Richards b Tommy Dreamer & Mikey Whipwreck-DQ **, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero d Dean Malenko 30:00 ***3/4, ECW title: Sandman b Cactus Jack ***3/4, ECW TV title: Guerrero b Marty Jannetty **, ECW title: Sandman b Shane Douglas **3/4, ECW tag title double dog collar match: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/2

5/19 Hazelton, PA (ECW - 225): Mikey Whipwreck b Steve Richards **, Tazmaniac b Hack Myers *1/4, Shane Douglas b Tommy Dreamer **3/4, Ron Simmons b Too Cold Scorpio *3/4, Marty Jannetty b Raven **3/4, ECW title: Sandman b Cactus Jack **, Eddy Guerrero b Dean Malenko ***1/2, ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/4

5/20 Jim Thorpe, PA aft. (ECW - 275): Steve Richards b Hack Myers, Tazmaniac b Raven, Tommy Dreamer b Ron Simmons, Shane Douglas b Too Cold Scorpio, Dean Malenko b Eddy Guerrero, ECW title: Sandman NC Cactus Jack, Public Enemy & Doug Flex b Pit Bulls & Richards

5/20 Langhorne, PA eve. (ECW - 291): Hack Myers b Don E. Allen 1/2*, Ron Simmons b Too Cold Scorpio *3/4, Tazmaniac b Steve Richards *1/4, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero d Dean Malenko 26:46 ***1/2, Death match: Cactus Jack & Tommy Dreamer b Sandman & Raven ***1/4, Shane Douglas b Mikey Whipwreck **, Double dog collar match for ECW tag title: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/2

6/9 Philadelphia Drexel University (ECW - 302): Mikey Whipwreck b Don E. Allen *, Shane Douglas b Hack Myers *1/4, Cactus Jack b Ian Rotten *3/4, Winner gets title match: Marty Jannetty d Too Cold Scorpio * (announced due to the draw that both would get the title shot), ECW tag title baseball bat match: Public Enemy b Pit Bulls ***1/4, Raven & Steve Richards b Cactus Jack & Tommy Dreamer ***3/4, ECW title: Sandman b Jannetty **, ECW title: Sandman b Scorpio ***1/2

6/17 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Tony Stetson b New Jersey Devil (Doug Gentry), Mikey Whipwreck b Val Puccio, Vampire Warrior (David Heath) b Hack Myers, Tommy Dreamer b Vampire Warrior, 911 b Jim Steele, Beulah

McGillicutty b Luna Vachon, 2 on 3: Too Cold Scorpio & Taz b Pit Bulls & Raven, ECW title barbed wire match: Sandman b Cactus Jack

6/30 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 425): Pit Bulls b Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff *3/4, Too Cold Scorpio b Hack Myers **, Chad Austin b Taz-DQ DUD, Barbed wire baseball bat match: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten **, ECW tag title: Raven & Steve Richards b Public Enemy to win titles ****, ECW title: Sandman b Tommy Dreamer **3/4

7/1 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,075 sellout): Dudley Brothers (Anthony Michaels & Jeff Bradley) b Pit Bulls *1/2, Chad Austin & Tony Stetson NC Don E. Allen & Dino Sandoff DUD, Hack Myers b Val Puccio *, Too Cold Scorpio b Taz **, ECW tag title: Steve Richards & Raven b Luna Vachon & Tommy Dreamer **, Taipei death match: Axl Rotten b Ian Rotten ***3/4, ECW title: Sandman b Cactus Jack ***1/2, Public Enemy b Gangstas ****1/4

7/15 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,000 sellout): Mikey Whipwreck b Mike Norman, Tony Stetson & Don E. Allen b Raven & Steve Richards-COR, Hack Myers b Val Puccio, Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer b Dudley Brothers & Raven, ECW title: Sandman b Axl Rotten, Dean Malenko & Too Cold Scorpio b Eddy Guerrero & Taz, Cage match: Luna Vachon b Steve Richards, Cage match: Gangstas b Public Enemy

7/20 Fort Lauderdale, FL (ECW - 1,100): Marty Jannetty b Bull Pain **1/4, Vampire Warrior b Purple Haze (Joe DiFuria) **, Dudley Dudley (Jeff Bradley) b Hack Myers *1/2, ECW tag title: Raven & Steve Richards b Luna Vachon & Tommy Dreamer **, Ian Rotten b Demon Hellstorm *1/4, Pit Bulls b Pain & DiFuria ****, Eddy Guerrero & Taz b Too Cold Scorpio & Dean Malenko ***3/4, Mikey Whipwreck b Terrorist (David Sierra) *, Gangstas b Public Enemy ***1/2, Non-title barbed wire match: Cactus Jack b Sandman ***1/4

7/21 Tampa (ECW - 800): Pit Bulls b Vampire Warrior & Dudley Dudley **, Marty Jannetty b The Terrorist DUD, Mikey Whipwreck won Battle Royal to earn title shot *, ECW title: Sandman b Whipwreck *1/2, Taipei death match: Ian Rotten b Bull Pain *, ECW tag title: Raven & Steve Richards b Tommy Dreamer & Luna Vachon ***1/2, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko b Eddy Guerrero to win title ***1/4, ECW title: Sandman b Whipwreck **1/2, Too Cold Scorpio b Hack Myers *, Public Enemy b Gangstas ***3/4

7/22 Orlando (ECW - 600 sellout): Pit Bulls & Hack Myers b Dudley Dudley & Terrorist & Vampire Warrior *1/2, ECW TV title: Dean Malenko b Eddy Guerrero ****, Barbed wire baseball bat match: Ian Rotten b Bull Pain 1/2*, Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***1/4, ECW title: Sandman b Marty Jannetty *, Luna Vachon b Steve Richards *, Public Enemy b Gangstas ***

7/28 Middletown, NY (ECW - 1,400/1,056 paid): Jim Powers b Primo Carnera III, Hack Myers b Val Puccio, Too Cold Scorpio b Mikey Whipwreck, ECW tag title: Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls, Marty Jannetty DDQ Jim Neidhart, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero b Dean Malenko to win title, Rick & Scott Steiner b Dudley Dudley & Vampire Warrior, ECW title: Cactus Jack b Sandman-DQ, Public Enemy DCOR Gangstas

8/4 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 375): Mikey Whipwreck b Don E. Allen 3/4*, ECW TV title: Eddy Guerrero b Dean Malenko ***1/2, Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls **3/4, ECW title:

Sandman b Hack Myers **1/2, Rick & Scott Steiner b Dudley Dudley & Too Cold Scorpio **1/2, Falls count anywhere: Public Enemy b Gangstas ***3/4

8/5 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): J.T. Smith b Hack Myers *3/4, Val Puccio b Tony Stetson-DQ *, Raven & Steve Richards & Dudley Dudley & Big Dick Dudley b Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls & Cactus Jack ***1/4, Dean Malenko & Too Cold Scorpio & Cactus Jack b Rick & Scott Steiner & Eddy Guerrero ****1/4, Non-title Singapore cane match: Mikey Whipwreck b Sandman ***1/2, Stretcher match: Gangstas b Public Enemy ***

8/25 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 300): Mikey Whipwreck b Dino Sandoff DUD, ECW tag titles: Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls ***1/2, Ian Rotten b Bull Pain *3/4, Rick & Scott Steiner b Too Cold Scorpio & Dean Malenko **, Tommy Dreamer b Dudley Dudley *, ECW TV title: Scorpio b Eddy Guerrero to win title ***1/4, Johnny Grunge b New Jack *1/2, Mustafa Saed b Rocco Rock ***

8/26 Philadelphia (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Hack Myers b J.T. Smith-COR, Ian Rotten b Bull Pain **1/4, ECW tag titles: Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls ****, Tommy Dreamer b Dudley Dudley *1/2, 2/3 falls: Eddy Guerrero d Dean Malenko ***3/4, Beulah McGillicuddy b Francine DUD, Rick & Scott Steiner b Chris Benoit & Too Cold Scorpio ***3/4, Gangstas & Sandman b Public Enemy & Mikey Whipwreck ***

8/28 Kennett Square, PA (ECW - 300): Mikey Whipwreck b Dino Sandoff DUD, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Hack Myers 1/2*, ECW tag title: Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls *1/4, Extreme death match: Ian Rotten b Bull Pain **1/2, ECW title: Sandman b Tommy Dreamer **, Rick & Scott Steiner b Dudley Brothers **1/2, Cactus Jack b 911 *, Falls count anywhere: Whipwreck & Rocco Rock b Gangstas ***3/4

9/15 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 430): J.T. Smith b Hack Myers, Chad Austin b 911-DQ, ECW title: Sandman b Bull Pain, Too Cold Scorpio b 911-DQ, ECW TV title: Scorpio b Mikey Whipwreck, Public Enemy b Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley, Gangstas b Whipwreck & Tommy Dreamer, Raven & Steve Richards & Beulah McGillicuddy b Pit Bulls & Francine

9/16 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,175 sellout): Bull Pain b Tony Stetson *3/4, Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley b Chad Austin & Don E. Allen *, Hack Myers b J.T. Smith-COR **, Eliminators (John Kronus & Perry Saturn) & Jason (Jason Knight) b Rick & Scott Steiner & Taz **3/4, Double dog collar match for ECW tag title: Pit Bulls b Raven & Steve Richards to win titles ***1/2, Rey Misterio Jr. b Psicosis ****1/2, Cage match: Public Enemy & Mikey Whipwreck b New Jack & Too Cold Scorpio & Sandman ***3/4

9/23 Middletown, NY (ECW - 800): Primo Carnera III b Jason DUD, J.T. Smith b Rolling Thunder (Dino Sandoff) *, Cactus Jack b Hack Myers *, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Tommy Dreamer **1/2, Rick & Scott Steiner b Raven & Steve Richards **, ECW tag title: Pit Bulls b Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley *1/2, ECW title: Sandman b Mikey Whipwreck ****, Gangstas b Public Enemy

10/6 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 425): Pit Bulls b J.T. Smith & Dino Sendoff DUD, Gangstas b Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley, Hack Myers b J.T. Smith 1/2*, Taz & 911 & Mikey Whipwreck b Eliminators & Jason DUD, ECW title: Sandman

NC Konnan *3/4, Cactus Jack b Myers-COR -*3/4, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Tommy Dreamer ***3/4, Double tables match: Public Enemy b Steve Richards & Raven ***

10/7 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Eliminators b Chad Austin & Tony Stetson, Taz b Jason, Cactus Jack b Pablo Pena, Konnan b Dudley Dudley, 2 of 3 falls: Psicosis b Rey Misterio Jr., ECW tag titles: Raven & Steve Richards b Pit Bulls to win titles, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b J.T. Smith, ECW TV title: Scorpio b Hack Myers, ECW title: Sandman b Mikey Whipwreck, Three way dance for ECW tag titles: Public Enemy beat Gangstas and Raven & Richards to win titles

10/27 Kennett Square, PA (ECW - 250): Bubba Ray Dudley b Axl Rotten *, Eliminators b Hack Myers & El Puerto Ricano ***1/2, Dances with Dudley b J.T. Smith-COR *1/4, Steve Richards b Mikey Whipwreck ***, Falls count anywhere; Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***1/4, Cactus Jack NC Konnan **3/4, ECW tag titles: Public Enemy b Too Cold Scorpio & Sandman ***3/4

10/28 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Axl Rotten b Dudley Dudley *, Pit Bulls b Don E. Allen & Tony Stetson DUD, Konnan & Rey Misterio Jr. b Psicosis & La Parka-COR ***3/4, Loser wears a dress: Johnny Grunge b Steve Richards **, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b The Sandman to win title ***, J.T. Smith b El Puerto Ricano *, Hack Myers b Dances with Dudley DUD, TV title vs. tag titles: Too Cold Scorpio b Rocco Rock to become tag champion choosing Sandman as partner 24:54 **1/2, Tommy Dreamer b Cactus Jack **

11/3 Reading, PA (ECW - 300): Hack Myers b J.T. Smith *1/4, Pit Bulls b Dances With Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley **, Axl Rotten b Dino Sendoff *, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Jason ***1/2, Bad Crew b Flamingo Kid & ? *1/2, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio NC Axl Rotten *1/2, No punches allowed: Cactus Jack b Tommy Dreamer-DQ DUD, Public Enemy b Raven & Steve Richards ***

11/4 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 250): J.T. Smith b Hack Myers *, Axl Rotten b Jason *, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio DDQ 911 **1/4, Public Enemy b Dances with Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley **, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Sandman ***3/4, Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer b Cactus Jack & Raven & Steve Richards ***1/4

11/17 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 475 sellout): Bad Crew b Ranger Seven & Sweet Georgia Brown ***1/4, Axl Rotten d Hack Myers *1/2, Eliminators b Dances with Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley **, J.T. Smith b El Puerto Ricano **, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Rey Misterio Jr. ***1/2, Rumble Games: Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio & Raven & Cactus Jack & Steve Richards b Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls & Public Enemy ****

11/18 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): Bubba Ray Dudley b Don E. Allen & Tony Stetson 1/4*, Konnan b Jason DUD, Steve Richards b El Puerto Ricano ***1/4, Pit Bulls b Eliminators ***, Mexican death match: Rey Misterio Jr. b Psicosis ***1/4, ECW tag titles: Too Cold Scorpio & Sandman b Public Enemy ***, Bill Alphonso b Tod Gordon **, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Steve Austin **3/4, Sabu b Hack Myers ***3/4, Tommy Dreamer & Terry Funk b Raven & Cactus Jack ***3/4

11/25 Salisbury Beach, MA (ECW - 275): Steve Richards b Hack Myers **, ECW death match: Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***1/2, Eliminators b Pit Bulls *3/4, Public Enemy b Dances with Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley ***3/4, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Sandman **3/4

12/1 Reading, PA (ECW - 350): Hack Myers b Steve Richards 3/4*, J.T. Smith b Blue Meanie (Brian Rollins) 3/4*, Bad Crew b Sweet George Love & Ranger Seven **1/4, Bruiser Mastino (Mantaur) b Dark Ninja (Chuck Williams) *1/2, Pit Bulls b Eliminators *3/4, Public Enemy b Dances with Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley ***1/4, ECW title: Mikey Whipwreck b Raven ***1/4, Tommy Dreamer b Tom Prichard-DQ ***

12/9 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 900 sellout): Dudley Dudley & Dances with Dudley b Bad Crew *1/2, Taz b El Puerto Ricano *, Eliminators b Pit Bulls ***1/4, Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***1/4, J.T. Smith b Tony Stetson **1/4, Triangular match for ECW title: Sandman won over Mikey Whipwreck & Steve Austin to become champion ***1/2, Public Enemy b Heavenly Bodies ***1/4, Ultimate jeopardy: Public Enemy & Pit Bulls & Dreamer b Raven & Steve Richards & Heavenly Bodies & Eliminators ***1/4

12/28 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 400 sellout): Taz b Don E. Allen *, El Puerto Ricano b Koji Nakagawa *3/4, Bubba Ray Dudley & Dances With Dudley b Bad Crew **, Hack Myers b J.T. Smith *, Eliminators b Pit Bulls **1/4, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Johnny Grunge **1/4, 911 b Bruiser Mastino (Mantaur) DUD, Falls count anywhere: Tommy Dreamer & Mikey Whipwreck b Raven & Steve Richards **3/4, Sabu b Rocco Rock **1/2, ECW title: Sandman b Cactus Jack ***3/4

12/28 Rosarito (AAA - 500): Pandilleros I & II & III b X-Men I & II & III, Damian (Ultraman) & Halloween b Leon Negro & Torero-DQ, WWA welterweight title: Rey Misterio Jr. b Psicosis, Konnan & La Parka & Tinieblas Jr. b Pierroth Jr. & Killer & Jerry Estrada

12/28 Madisonville, KY (North American All-Star Wrestling): War Machines b American Riders, Giant Warrior b Brakus, Bonecrusher Lewis b Stinky Hale, Gator McAllister b Hillbilly Roy, Colorado Kid & Bill Dundee b Brickhouse Brown & Pat Tanaka

12/29 Rego Park, NY (ECW - 1,140 sellout): Taz b Koji Nakagawa *, Hack Myers b J.T. Smith 3/4*, ECW TV & tag title: Mikey Whipwreck b Too Cold Scorpio to win both titles **1/2, Eliminators b Pit Bulls **1/4, Raven b Tommy Dreamer **3/4, Bruiser Mastino b El Puerto Ricano 1/2*, Bubba Ray Dudley b Blue Meanie (Brian Rollins) *, ECW title: Sandman b Raven ***3/4, Gangstas b Public Enemy ***, Sabu b Cactus Jack ***

12/30 Reading, PA (ECW - 250): Sabu b El Puerto Ricano, Bad Crew b Dances with Dudley & Bubba Ray Dudley, Mikey Whipwreck b Koji Nakagawa, Public Enemy b Gangstas, Pit Bulls b Eliminators, Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio b Cactus Jack & Raven, Tommy Dreamer b Steve Richards, Hack Myers b J.T. Smith-DQ

1996

1/5 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,150 sellout): 911 & Rey Misterio Jr. b Eliminators ****, Rob Van Dam b Axl Rotten ***3/4, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Mikey Whipwreck to

win title ***, Taz b Hack Myers *1/2, Bubba Ray Dudley b Jimmy Del Rey *1/4, Bad Crew NC Tony Stetson & J.T. Smith *1/2, ECW title: Sandman b Konnan ***1/2, Sabu b Steve Richards ****, Public Enemy b Gangstas ***1/2

2/2 Reading, PA (ECW - 550 sellout): Mr. Hughes & Bad Crew b Axl Rotten & Hack Myers & El Puerto Ricano, Taz b Shark Attack Kid, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Mikey Whipwreck, Shane Douglas & Tommy Dreamer b Raven & Stevie Richards, Pit Bulls b Head Hunters, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b J.T. Smith, Eliminators b Chris Jericho & Rob Van Dam, Sabu b Cactus Jack

2/3 Queens, NY (ECW - 1,200 sellout): Taz b Shark Attack Kid, Head Hunters b Axl Rotten & El Puerto Ricano, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck to win titles, Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas b Raven & Stevie Richards, Rey Misterio Jr. b Juventud Guerrera, Chris Jericho b Rob Van Dam, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b J.T. Smith, Sabu b Mr. Hughes, Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio b Gangstas

2/23 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 493 sellout): Bad Crew b J.T. Smith & Joel Hartgood, Pit Bulls b Blue Meanie & Stevie Richards, Bill Alfonso b Tod Gordon, Mikey Whipwreck b El Puerto Ricano, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Hack Myers, Sandman b Axl Rotten, Bam Bam Bigelow b Cactus Jack, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas

2/24 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 804 sellout): Bad Crew b J.T. Smith & El Puerto Ricano, Axl Rotten b Blue Meanie, Too Cold Scorpio b Mr. Hughes-COR, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b Don E. Allen, Shane Douglas b Stevie Richards, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Pit Bulls, ECW title: Raven b Sandman, Sabu b Cactus Jack

3/15 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 666 sellout): Bad Crew b El Puerto Ricano & Chubby Dudley *, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b Spiros Grekko (Rico Fredrico) DUD, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck *, Chris Jericho b Stevie Richards **1/2, Rob Van Dam b Damien Stone ***, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio d Sabu 20:00 ***1/2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Pit Bulls ****, Bruise Brothers b Shane Douglas & Tommy Dreamer ***1/2

3/16 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 491 sellout): Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley b Bad Crew *, Spiros Grekko b El Puerto Ricano DUD, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck *, Axl Rotten b Damien Stone *1/2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Pit Bulls **1/2, Sabu b Mustafa Saed *, Chris Jericho b Stevie Richards ***, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b New Jack ***, Scorpio NC Sabu, Falls count anywhere: Bruise Brothers b Shane Douglas & Sandman ****

3/29 Reading, PA (ECW - 680 sellout): Bad Crew b J.T. Smith & Chad Austin, Hack Myers b Damien Stone, Billy Black & The Stud b Axl Rotten & Smith, Eliminators b A-Train & El Puerto Ricano, Rob Van Dam b Stevie Richards, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, Tommy Dreamer b Blue Meanie, Bruise Brothers b Pit Bulls, Gangstas b Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas

3/30 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,000): Pit Bulls b Bad Crew *, Mikey Whipwreck b Damian Kane *1/2, Gangstas b Chad Austin & Blue Meanie **, Stretcher match: J.T. Smith b Hack Myers *1/2, Taz b Buh Buh Ray Dudley *, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Billy Black & The Punisher (SMW) ***, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Rob Van Dam 30:00 ***1/2, Joel

Hartgood b Broad Street Bully (Tony Stetson) DUD, Shane Douglas & Tommy Dreamer & Sandman b Raven & Bruise Brothers ***

4/12 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 400): J.T. Smith b El Puerto Ricano *, Taz b Damien Stone 1/2*, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b Buh Buh Ray Dudley *, Chris Jericho b Damian 666 **1/2, Bad Crew b Gangstas-COR **, ECW title: Raven b Axl Rotten *1/2, Shane Douglas NC Sandman ***1/2, Sabu b Billy Black **1/4, Head Hunters & Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bulls ***1/2

4/19 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 350): Pit Bulls b Bad Crew, Brian Lee NC Axl Rotten, Little Guido (Damien Stone) b Hack Myers, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio d Sabu, Shane Douglas & Sandman b Billy Black & Rob Van Dam, ECW title lumberjack match: Raven b Tommy Dreamer

4/20 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,075 sellout): Super Nova NC El Puerto Ricano DUD, Mikey Whipwreck b Billy Black **1/2, Pit Bulls NC Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-von Dudley *1/2, Taz b Devon Storm-COR **, Axl Rotten b Little Guido *3/4, Sandman & Too Cold Scorpio b Bruise Brothers ***, Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer **1/2, Sabu b Rob Van Dam ***1/4, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas ***

4/26 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 350): Tommy Dreamer b Little Guido, Axl Rotten & Hack Myers b Bad Crew, El Puerto Ricano b Super Nova, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Pit Bulls, Gangstas b Sabu & Too Cold Scorpio, ECW TV title: Scorpio NC Sabu, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas

4/27 Wilmington, DE (ECW - 518): Devon Storm & Damien Kane b El Puerto Ricano & Hack Myers, Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, Tommy Dreamer b Little Guido, Sandman b Axl Rotten, Francine & Pit Bulls b Stevie Richards & Eliminators, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio d Sabu, ECW title: Raven b Shane Douglas

5/10 Reading, PA (ECW - 375): Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley b J.T. Smith & Little Guido **, Sabu b Damian, Taz b Axl Rotten *, ECW title: Raven b Hack Myers *, ECW TV title: Too Cold Scorpio b New Jack **1/2, Chris Jericho b Mikey Whipwreck ***1/2, Rob Van Dam b Shane Douglas ***3/4, Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer ***

5/11 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,000 sellout): El Puerto Ricano NC Damian *1/4, Devon Storm & Damien Kane b D-Von Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley-DQ *1/4, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Axl Rotten & Hack Myers *, Taz b Beef Wellington 1/2*, Triangular match for ECW title: Raven won over Pit Bull #2 and Sandman ***1/4, Chris Jericho b Mikey Whipwreck **, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b Too Cold Scorpio to win title ***3/4, Rob Van Dam b Sabu ****, Gangstas & Tommy Dreamer b Eliminators & Brian Lee ***3/4

5/17 Glenolden, PA (ECW - 250): Rob Van Dam b El Puerto Ricano *1/2, Big Titan b Hack Myers *, Taz b Axl Rotten *1/2, Pit Bull #2 b Buh Buh Ray Dudley-DQ **, ECW title: Raven b Mikey Whipwreck **, John Kronus b Mustafa *, New Jack b Perry Saturn DUD, Too Cold Scorpio b Chris Jericho ***1/4, Falls count anywhere: Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer

5/18 Allentown, PA (ECW - 1,200): Rob Van Dam b El Puerto Ricano, Brian Lee b Axl Rotten, Bruise Brothers b Pit Bulls, ECW title: Raven b Chris Jericho, J.T. Smith & Little Guido & Big Titan b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley & Hack Myers, Taz b Too Cold Scorpio, Sabu b Mikey Whipwreck, ECW TV title triangular match: Shane Douglas over Tommy Dreamer & Scorpio, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas

5/31 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 325): Too Cold Scorpio won Battle Royal *1/2, Bad Crew #1 b Bad Crew #2 *, Mikey Whipwreck b Stevie Richards *1/2, Ron Harris b Don Harris DUD, New Jack b Brian Lee **, D-Von Dudley b Buh Buh Ray Dudley *, Pit Bull #2 b Perry Saturn **, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b John Kronus ***, Taz b Sandman, ECW title: Raven b Scorpio **1/2

6/1 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,025 sellout): Devon Storm b El Puerto Ricano **, Rob Van Dam b Mikey Whipwreck *1/2, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley-DQ 1/2*, Taz b Jason Helton **, Elimination match: Pit Bulls & Tommy Dreamer b Bruise Brothers & Brian Lee, ECW title: Raven b Pit Bull #2 **, Sandman b Stevie Richards *, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b El Puerto Ricano DUD, ECW TV title: Douglas b Don E. Allen DUD, ECW TV title: Douglas b Storm DUD, ECW TV title: Douglas b Whipwreck DUD, ECW TV title: Pit Bull #2 b Douglas to win title **1/2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas **1/2

6/8 Reading, PA (ECW - 250): Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley b J.T. Smith & Super Nova, Hack Myers d Axl Rotten, Mikey Whipwreck b El Puerto Ricano, Devon Storm & Damian Kane NC Bad Crew, Taz b Storm, Paul Varelans b Jason Helton, ECW TV title: Pit Bull #2 b Shane Douglas, Falls count anywhere: Brian Lee b Tommy Dreamer, ECW title: Raven b Sandman, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas

6/14 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW): Bad Crew b D-Von Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley-DQ DUD, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Devon Storm & Sal Bellomo *, Paul Varelans b Jason Helton DUD, Mikey Whipwreck b Stevie Richards **1/2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas **1/2, Bruise Brothers b Hack Myers & Axl Rotten *, Taz b Sandman DUD, ECW TV title: Pit Bull #2 b Shane Douglas *1/2, ECW title: Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***

6/21 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 400): Devon Storm & Damien Kane b Bad Crew, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Axl Rotten & Hack Myers, John Kronus b Mikey Whipwreck, Raven & Stevie Richards b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & D-Von Dudley, Rob Van Dam b Chris Jericho, Taz & Bill Alfonso b Sandman & Tod Gordon, ECW TV title: Pit Bull #2 b Perry Saturn, Shane Douglas b Sabu, Brian Lee & Bruise Brothers b Gangstas & Tommy Dreamer

6/22 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,511 sellout): Shane Douglas b Mikey Whipwreck **3/4, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley-DQ **, Taz b Paul Varelans *, ECW title: Raven b Terry Gordy **1/2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators NC Gangstas DUD, Axl Rotten & Hack Myers NC Samoan Gangsta Party (Matthew & Samula Anoaia) DUD, ECW TV title: Chris Jericho b Pit Bull #2 to win title ****1/4, Weapons match: Tommy Dreamer b Brian Lee ***1/2, Sabu b Rob Van Dam ****

6/29 Middletown, NY (ECW - 700): Devon Storm b El Puerto Ricano, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big

Dick Dudley-DQ, Shane Douglas b Mikey Whipwreck, Taz b Hack Myers, ECW TV title: Chris Jericho b Pit Bull #2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas, Weapons match: Tommy Dreamer b Brian Lee, ECW title: Raven b Sandman

6/30 Deer Park, NY (ECW - 400 sellout): Taz b Pablo Marquez 3/4*, Mikey Whipwreck b Stevie Richards **1/4, J.T. Smith & Little Guido b Big Dick Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley-DQ **, Sandman b Bluedust DUD, Pit Bull #2 b Shane Douglas *, Brian Lee b Dances with Dudley 1/2*, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Chris Jericho & Whipwreck ***3/4, ECW title: Raven b Tommy Dreamer ***

7/12 Allentown, PA (ECW - 900): Taz b Mikey Whipwreck, Louie Spicoli b El Puerto Ricano, Tarzan Goto b Axl Rotten, ECW TV title: Chris Jericho d Shane Douglas, Samoan Gangsta Tribe NC Big Dick Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Bad Crew b Havoc Inc., Sandman b Bluedust (Rick Heffron aka Blue Meanie), Sabu b Hack Myers, Too Cold Scorpio b Pit Bull #2, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Gangstas, Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer b Raven & Brian Lee

7/13 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,500 sellout): Gangstas b Samoan Gangsta Tribe, Mikey Whipwreck b Paul Lauria, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Sabu & Whipwreck, Dances with Dudley & Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley b Big Guido (Primo Carnera III) & Little Guido (James Stone) & J.T. Smith, Tarzan Goto b Axl Rotten, Shane Douglas won four corners match for ECW TV title over Too Cold Scorpio, Pit Bull #2 and Chris Jericho, Sabu b Louie Spicoli, Cage match/brawl everywhere: Sandman & Tommy Dreamer & Terry Gordy b Raven & Stevie Richards & Brian Lee

7/26 Jim Thorpe, PA (ECW - 600): El Puerto Ricano b Super Nova, D-Von Dudley b Hack Myers, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Taz b Sandman, Gangstas b Devon Storm & Damien Kane, Brian Lee b L.A. Smooth, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Mikey Whipwreck & Chris Jericho, Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer b Bruise Brothers

7/27 Warwick, PA (ECW - 860): Taz & Bill Alfonso b Sandman & Tod Gordon, Super Nova b El Puerto Ricano, Hack Myers b Devon Storm, Mikey Whipwreck b Stevie Richards, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Pit Bull #2 & Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Gangstas b Bruise Brothers, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b Chris Jericho, Taz & Brian Lee b Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer

8/2 Plymouth Meeting, PA (ECW - 800): European jr. title: Mikey Whipwreck b Dirt Bike Kid to win title, Bruise Brothers b Bad Crew, Axl Rotten b Devon Storm, Taz b El Puerto Ricano, Too Cold Scorpio & Sandman b Johnny Smith & Stevie Richards, Louie Spicoli b Buh Buh Ray Dudley, Rob Van Dam b Hack Myers, Shane Douglas & Brian Lee & Eliminators b Gangstas & Tommy Dreamer & Pit Bull #2

8/3 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,500 sellout): European jr. title: Mikey Whipwreck b Devon Storm, Johnny Smith b Louie Spicoli, Axl Rotten NC D-Von Dudley, Stevie Richards b Sandman, Too Cold Scorpio b Chris Jericho, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b Pit Bull #2, Brian Lee & Taz b Steve Williams & Tommy Dreamer, ECW tag titles: Gangstas won title in four corners match over Eliminators, Samoan Gangstas and Bruise Brothers, Stretcher match: Sabu b Rob Van Dam

8/10 Yokohama Bunka Gym (ECW/IWA - 1,800): Orito b Felinito, Kyoko Ichiki b Emi Motokawa, Keizo Matsuda & Tudor the Turtle b Jun Nagaoka & Takeshi Sato, Keisuke Yamada & Takashi Okano b Ryo Myake & Flying Kid Ichihara, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b Katsumi Hirano, Black Hearts b Hiroshi Itakura & Leatherface, Handicap match: Eliminators b Tarzan Goto, Tommy Dreamer & Terry Gordy b Raven & Stevie Richards

8/11 Tokyo Korakuen Hall (ECW/IWA - 2,000 sellout): Orito b Felinito, Emi Motokawa b Kyoko Ichiki, Tudor the Turtle & Katsumi Hirano & Hiroshi Itakura b Akinori Tsukioka & Ryo Myake & Flying Kid Ichihara, Stevie Richards b Keizo Matsuda, Leatherface & Terry Gordy b Black Hearts, ECW tag titles: Eliminators b Keisuke Yamada & Takashi Okano, IWA title: Tarzan Goto b Buh Buh Ray Dudley

8/17 Staten Island, NY (ECW - 1,033): ECW title: Raven b Sandman, Louie Spicoli b Hack Myers, Buh Buh Ray Dudley b Devon Storm, Mikey Whipwreck b John Kronus, Too Cold Scorpio b Perry Saturn, Terry Gordy & Tommy Dreamer b Brian Lee & Stevie Richards, ECW TV title: Shane Douglas b Pit Bull #2, ECW tag titles: Gangstas b Samoan Gangstas, Sabu b Rob Van Dam

8/23 Reading, PA (ECW - 500): Sandman & Missy Hyatt b Raven & Lori Fullington, Hack Myers b Super Nova, Mikey Whipwreck b Little Guido, Louie Spicoli b Buh Buh Ray Dudley, ECW tag titles: Gangstas b Samoan Gangsta Party, Tommy Dreamer & Terry Gordy b Eliminators, Brian Lee b Pablo Marques (El Puerto Rican), Rob Van Dam b Dreamer

8/24 Philadelphia ECW Arena (ECW - 1,400 sellout): Louie Spicoli b Devon Storm, Mikey Whipwreck b Little Guido, Buh Buh Ray Dudley & Big Dick Dudley b Axl Rotten & D-Von Dudley, Lori Fullington b Lady Alexander, Bad street match: Terry Gordy b Brian Lee, Rob Van Dam b Doug Furnas, Double dog collar match: Sandman & Pit Bull #2 b Shane Douglas & Raven, Taz NC Tommy Dreamer, Weapons cage match for ECW tag titles: Gangstas b Eliminators

APPENDIX II: ECW TITLE HISTORIES

ECW HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

1992/04/25 Jimmy Snuka Philadelphia, PA
Beat Salvatore Bellomo to become the first champ (both had won separate battle royals)

1992/04/26 Johnny Hot Body Philadelphia, PA

1992/07/12 Jimmy Snuka [2] Philadelphia, PA

1992/10/12 Don Muraco Philadelphia, PA

1992/11/16 The Sandman Philadelphia, PA

1993/04/03 Don Muraco [2] Philadelphia, PA

1993/08/08 Tito Santana Philadelphia, PA

1993/09/18 Shane Douglas Philadelphia, PA
Santana no longer worked ECW shows
Many title histories list Douglas having defeated Santana by forfeit on September 9th in Roanoke, VA
No ECW show was held on that date and no record of any independent show can be

found
September 18th is the first date Douglas made an appearance as champion

1993/10/02 Sabu Philadelphia, PA

1993/12/26 Terry Funk Philadelphia, PA

1994/03/26 Shane Douglas [2] Devon, PA
Douglas pinned Funk in an 8-man "wargames" match to win the title

1994/08/27 **PROMOTION RENAMED EXTREME CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING**
Douglas won the NWA World Title Tournament, but immediately threw down the belt and declared himself the first Extreme Championship Wrestling Champ

1995/04/15 The Sandman [2] Philadelphia, PA

1995/10/25 Mikey Whipwreck Philadelphia, PA

1995/12/09 The Sandman [3] Philadelphia, PA
Won a "three way dance" over Mikey Whipwreck and Steve Austin

1996/01/27 Raven Philadelphia, PA

1996/10/05 The Sandman [4] Philadelphia, PA
Pinned substitute Stevie Richards in a tag match

1996/12/07 Raven [2] Philadelphia, PA

1997/04/13 Terry Funk [2] Philadelphia, PA

1997/08/09 Sabu [2] Philadelphia, PA

1997/08/17 Shane Douglas [3] Ft. Lauderdale, FL
Won a "three way dance" over Sabu and Terry Funk

1997/10/19 Bam Bam Bigelow Queens, NY

1997/11/30 Shane Douglas [4] Pittsburgh, PA

1999/01/10 Taz Kissimmee, FL
Unified with FTW Title when he beat Sabu 1999/03/21 in Asbury Park, NJ

1999/09/19 Mike Awesome Villa Park, IL
Won a "three way dance" over Taz and Masato Tanaka

1999/12/17 Masato Tanaka Nashville, TN

1999/12/23 Mike Awesome [2] White Plains, NY

2000/04/13 Tazz [2] Indianapolis, IN

2000/04/21 Tommy Dreamer Philadelphia, PA

2000/04/21 Justin Credible Philadelphia, PA

2000/10/10 Jerry Lynn St. Paul, MN

2000/11/05 Steve Corino Villa Park, IL
Won a "double jeopardy" match over Jerry Lynn, Sandman, and Justin Credible

2001/01/07 Sandman [5] New York City, NY
Won a "three way dance" over Steve

	Corino and Justin Credible	
2001/01/07	Rhino	New York City, NY
2001/03	PROMOTION CLOSES	
<u>ECW TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP</u>		
1992/06/23	The Super Destroyers (AJ Fritzoid & Doug Stall)	Philadelphia, PA
	Beat Max Thrasher & Glenn Osbourne in tournament final to become the first champions	
1993/04/02	Larry Winters & Tony Stetson	Radnor, PA
1993/04/03	The Suicide Blondes: Johnny Hotbody & Chris Candido	Philadelphia, PA
1993/05/15	The Super Destroyers [2]	Philadelphia, PA
	Beat Johnny Hotbody & Chris Michaels	
1993/05/15	The Suicide Blondes: Johnny Hotbody & Chris Michaels	Philadelphia, PA
1993/07	VACANT	
1993/08/08	Eddie Gilbert & The Dark Patriot (Doug Gilbert)	Philadelphia, PA
	Beat Salvatore Bellomo & Sandman in tournament final	
1993/09/18	VACANT	
	Eddie Gilbert publicly announces he's quitting the company and "retiring"	
1993/10/01	Johnny Hotbody & Tony Stetson	Philadelphia, PA
	Awarded title; This is their first public appearance as champs although they may have been announced as champs on TV prior to this event	
1993/11/13	Tommy Dreamer & Johnny Gunn	Philadelphia, PA
1993/12/04	The Tazmaniac & Kevin Sullivan	Philadelphia, PA
	Beat Tommy Dreamer & Shane Douglas Held-up vs. Ron & Don Harris on 1994/02/05 in Philadelphia, PA Tazmaniac & Sullivan win rematch 1994/03/05 in Philadelphia, PA	
1994/03/06	The Public Enemy: Rocco Rock & Johnny Grunge	Philadelphia, PA
1994/08/27	Cactus Jack & Mikey Whipwreck	Philadelphia, PA
PROMOTION RENAMED EXTREME CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING		
1994/11/05	The Public Enemy [2]	Philadelphia, PA
1995/02/04	Sabu & The Tazmaniac	Philadelphia, PA
	Won a "three way dance" over Doug	
1995/02/25	Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko	Philadelphia, PA
1995/04/08	The Public Enemy [3]	Philadelphia, PA
	Won a "three way dance" over Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko and Taz & Rick Steiner	
1995/06/20	Raven & Stevie Richards	Jim Thorpe, PA
1995/09/16	The Pitbulls	Philadelphia, PA
1995/10/07	Raven & Steve Richards [2]	Philadelphia, PA
1995/10/07	The Public Enemy [4]	Philadelphia, PA
	Won a "three way dance" over Raven & Stevie Richards and The Gangstas	
1995/10/28	Too Cold Scorpio & The Sandman	Philadelphia, PA
	Too Cold Scorpio beat Rocco Rock in a singles match and chooses Sandman as his partner	
1995/12/29	Cactus Jack & Mickey Whipwreck [2]	Queens, NY
	Mikey Whipwreck beat Too Cold Scorpio in a singles match and chooses Cactus Jack as his partner	
1996/02/03	The Eliminators: Perry Saturn & John Kronus	Queens, NY
1996/08/03	The Gangstas: New Jack & Mustafa Saed	Philadelphia, PA
	Won a "four way dance" over The Eliminators, Ron & Don Harris, and The Samoan Gangsta Party	
1996/12/20	The Eliminators [2]	Middletown, NY
1997/03/15	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Philadelphia, PA
1997/04/13	The Eliminators [3]	Philadelphia, PA
1997/06/20	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [2]	Waltham, MA
1997/07/19	The Gangstas [2]	Philadelphia, PA
1997/08/17	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [3]	Ft. Lauderdale, FL
	Won via forfeit	
1997/09/20	The Gangstanators: New Jack & Kronus	Philadelphia, PA
1997/10/18	The FBI: Tracy Smothers & Little Guido	Philadelphia, PA
1997/12/05	Doug Furnas & Phil Lafon	Waltham, MA
1997/12/06	Chris Candido & Lance Storm	Philadelphia, PA

	Furnas & Phil Lafon and Axl Rotten & Balls Mahoney		co-winners of a battle royal on 1992/07/15 in Philadelphia, PA)
1998/06/27	Rob Van Dam & Sabu	Philadelphia, PA	1992/08/12 VACANT Philadelphia, PA
1998/10/24	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [4]	Cleveland, OH	Hotbody broke his leg in the match where he won the title
1998/11/01	Masato Tanaka & Balls Mahoney	New Orleans, LA	1992/09/30 Glenn Osbourne Philadelphia, PA
1998/11/13	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [5]	Queens, NY	Beat Mr. Sandman
1998/12/13	Rob Van Dam & Sabu [2]	Tokyo, Japan	
1999/04/17	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [6]	Buffalo, NY	1993 VACANT
		D-Von Dudley beat Rob Van Dam in a singles match	Osbourne's last defense of the title was 1992/12/19 in Morrisville, PA No reason is given for Osbourne being stripped of the title, however it may be related to the promotion having it's first SportsChannel TV taping in March
1999/07/18	Spike Dudley & Balls Mahoney	Dayton, OH	1993/03/12 Jimmy Snuka Radnor, PA
1999/08/13	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [7]	Cleveland, OH	Beat Glenn Osbourne in tournament final
1999/08/14	Spike Dudley & Balls Mahoney [2]	Toledo, OH	1993/10/01 Terry Funk Philadelphia, PA
1999/08/26	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley [8]	Queens, NY	1993/11/13 Sabu Philadelphia, PA
1999/08/26	Raven & Tommy Dreamer	Queens, NY	Pinned Terry Funk in a tag match (Sabu & Road Warrior Hawk vs. Terry Funk & King Kong Bundy)
2000/01/09	Lance Storm & Justin Credible	Birmingham, AL	1994/03/06 The Tazmaniac Philadelphia, PA
2000/03/03	Masato Tanaka & Tommy Dreamer	Milwaukee, WI	1994/03/06 JT Smith Philadelphia, PA
2003/03/10	Raven & Mike Awesome	Philadelphia, PA	1994/04/16 Pitbull #1 Philadelphia, PA
2000/03/12	Lance Storm & Justin Credible [2]	Danbury, CT	1994/05/13 Mikey Whipwreck Philadelphia, PA
		Won a "three way dance" over Raven & Mike Awesome and Tommy Dreamer & Masato Tanaka	1994/08/13 Jason Knight Philadelphia, PA
2000/04/22	VACANT	Philadelphia, PA	PROMOTION RENAMED EXTREME CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING
		Vacated when Justin Credible wins ECW Title	1994/08/27
2000/08/25	Yoshihiro Tajiri & Mikey Whipwreck	New York City, NY	1994/11/04 Too Cold Scorpio Hamburg, PA
		Won a "three way dance" over Jerry Lynn & Tommy Dreamer and Simon Diamond & Johnny Swinger in tournament final	1994/11/04 Dean Malenko Hamburg, PA
2000/08/26	The FBI: Guido Maritato & Tony Mamaluke	New York City, NY	1995/03/18 Too Cold Scorpio [2] Philadelphia, PA
2000/12/03	Danny Doring & Amish Roadkill	New York City, NY	1995/04/08 Eddy Guerrero Philadelphia, PA
2001/03	PROMOTION CLOSES		1995/07/21 Dean Malenko [2] Tampa, FL
			1995/07/28 Eddy Guerrero [2] Middletown, NY
			1995/08/25 Too Cold Scorpio [3] Jim Thorpe, PA
			1995/12/29 Mikey Whipwreck [2] Queens, NY
			1996/01/05 Too Cold Scorpio [4] Philadelphia, PA
			1996/05/11 Shane Douglas Philadelphia,

ECW WORLD TELEVISION CHAMPIONSHIP

1992/08/12	Johnny Hotbody	Philadelphia, PA
		Beat Larry Winters to become the first champion (they were

1996/06/01	Pitbull #2	PA	Won battle royal to become first champion
1996/06/27	Chris Jericho	Philadelphia, PA	1993/10 TITLE ABANDONED The title was never defended after this show
1996/07/13	Shane Douglas [2]	Philadelphia, PA	
<u>F*CK THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP</u>			
1997/06/07	Taz [2]	Philadelphia, PA	1998/05/14 Taz Queens, NY Declares himself first FTW Champion
1998/03/01	Bam Bam Bigelow	Asbury Park, NJ	1998/12/19 Sabu Philadelphia, PA Won "three way dance" over Taz and Justin Credible
1998/04/04	Rob Van Dam	Buffalo, NY	1999/03/21 Taz [2] Asbury Park, NJ
2000/01/29	VACANT	Orlando, FL	1999/03/21 UNIFIED WITH ECW TITLE
		Van Dam broke his leg in a match vs. Rhino	
2000/03/12	Super Crazy	Danbury, CT	
	Beat Rhino in tournament final		
2000/04/08	Yoshihiro Tajiri	Buffalo, NY	1996/08/02 The Dirt Bike Kid Plymouth Meeting, PA Billed as champion upon arrival (there was no such existing title in England)
	Won "three way dance" over Super Crazy & Little Guido		This was his first public appearance as champion although he may have been billed as such on TV prior to this date
2000/04/22	Rhino	Philadelphia, PA	
2000/08/26	Kid Kash	New York City, NY	1996/08/02 Mikey Whipwreck Plymouth Meeting, PA
2000/09/09	Rhino [2]	Mississauga, ON	1996/12/14 Sabu London, England
2001/03	PROMOTION CLOSES		1996 TITLE ABANDONED Dirt Bike Kid was billed as champion in England in July 1999; ECW had long ago dropped recognition of this title

ECW PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP

1993/05/14	Tommy Cairo	Philadelphia, PA
	Won battle royal to become first champion	
1993/08/07	Tony Stetson	Philadelphia, PA
1993/09	TITLE ABANDONED	

The last defense of this title was 1993/09/18

ECW MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP

1993/10/16	JT Smith	North East, MD
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